■ **Entertainment / C1**

Pinoy artist wins Hollywood's FX Oscar

■ **Travel / I-2**

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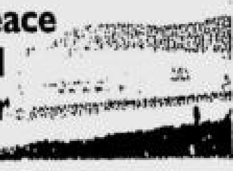
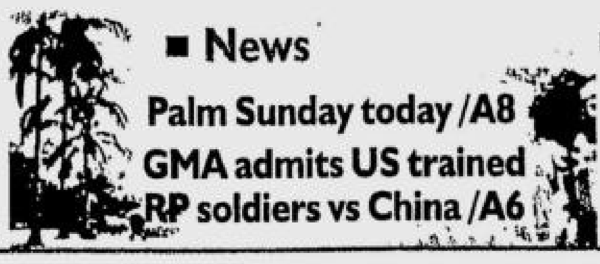




■ **News**

Palm Sunday today /A8

GMA admits US trained RP soldiers vs China /A6

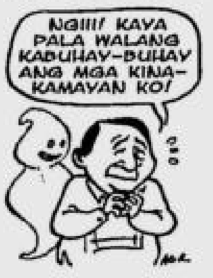
■ **Talk of the Town / A16**

Aquino: I'm the intelligent choice

■ **Magazine / Q3**

Read letter days

Ping's Senate bet woos 'ghost' voters in Bicol


NGIII! KAYA PALA WALANG KABUHAY-BUHAY ANG MGA KINA-KAMAYAN KO!

By Norman Bordadora

LEGASPI, Albay—April Fool's came a day late for Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla who was in Daraga town Friday.

Padilla, the lone senatorial bet of presidential can-

PING'S/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARL VIEWS

Empty seat, love song for missing ferry passenger

By Rex Godinez Ortega
PDI Mindanao Bureau[

ILIGAN CITY—They kept an empty seat for him, laid a toga on it and, with tears in their eyes, sang the love song "Rainbow" which Rodil Filipinas loved so much.

Aged 17, Filipinas "graduated" salutatori-

EMPTY/ A22

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Sunday, April 4, 2004 ★★★ 90 pages / 11 sections / vol. 19 / no. 118 P18 website: www.inq7.net

New power crisis looms

It may be too late to prevent it in many parts of the country

By Abigail L. Ho and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

NO NEED to panic yet, but the Philippine power industry had better act now or face a nationwide electricity crisis by 2007, a senior executive warned.

First Generation Holdings Corp. president Federico Lopez said in an interview that the power sector, in its current state, was not attracting direly needed investments to bankroll additional capacity to avert crippling blackouts.

"We need to attract investments, but not on a piecemal basis," Lopez told the INQUIRER on Friday. "There is a need to fix the (power) industry as a workable model so investors will know where their capital will go and what returns they will get from their investments."

In a presentation to businessmen earlier, Lopez said the Philippines would need between $2 billion and $3 billion over the next five years to build power generation plants.

Since new plants could take at least four to five years to finance and build, Lopez said it might be "already too late to avoid crises in many parts of the country!"

In his presentation, Lopez said Luzon would likely encounter a power shortfall by 2007, earlier than the government-projected 2008 or 2009.

The supply shortfall would come even earlier in the Visayas and Mindanao as, right now, both island groups were already experiencing rotating brownouts due either to lack of actual supply or transmission problems.

Filipinos still remember the massive daily power blackouts, lasting up to 12 or more hours, which engulfed the country in the last years of President Corazon Aquino's administration and forced many government offices to work by candlelight.

Aquino's successor, Fidel Ramos, resolved the crisis after he took office in 1992 by allowing private firms to build new plants and buying power barges. Previously, the state firm National Power Corp. was the country's only supplier of power.

To attract foreign investments, Lopez said the Energy Regulatory Commission should veer away from politics and come up with truly independent decisions.

Doing this would give potential investors a certain level of comfort and trust that industry regulators could not be swayed by political considerations.

Lopez said the investments that the sector needs to attract were not the small-scale type that involved infusions in only one or two projects.

Ensuring an adequate power supply and reserves in the coming years should come from a conducive investment

NEW/ A10

VAL HANDUMON

GOLDEN MOMENT. The shepherd of two People Power revolts, Jaime Cardinal Sin marks his 50th year as a priest on Saturday with a concelebrated Mass at the Manila Cathedral attended by President Macapagal (here kissing his ring) and former President Aquino. Though unwell, the cardinal "has done well for the nation, for all of us and we would be less well than we are now were it not for the priesthood of this man of God," said Bishop Socrates Villegas in his homily. ***(Story on Page A5)***

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

NO. 1 is his father's son. Aeneas Eli S. Diaz of Sorsogon (with mother Annie) idolized his late father, Elizalde Diaz, also a lawyer who died in 2000.

RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

NO. 8 Melissa Romana Suarez, formerly an international flight attendant

Bar topnotcher says he was born to be a lawyer

By Philip C. Tubeza

LIKE THE hero of Virgil's "Aeneid" after whom he was named, bar topnotcher Aeneas Eli Diaz survived a family tragedy but went on to triumph and make his dream a reality.

Diaz, or Anel to friends, thought of giving up when his favorite aunt, Lilia Diaz, the assistant general manager of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, was brutally murdered while he was taking the bar exams last September.

Fortunately for the law, Anel decided he would not let the tragedy deter him from pursuing his dream of following in his father's footsteps and becoming a lawyer.

The 25-year-old Anel, considered a "dark horse" by his classmates, topped the bar exams with a grade of 88.5310 percent.

A graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University law school, Anel said he had wanted to be a lawyer practically from birth.

"No one had to force me to go to law school. It was a decision I made the moment I was born," he said.

Or at least as soon as he reached the age of reason, he corrected himself.

Anel said he wanted to be a lawyer because his father, the late Elizalde Diaz, who was the officer-in-charge of Sorsogon province during the Aquino administration, also was one. The elder Diaz died in 2000 while Anel was in law school.

"I looked up to my father. He was a lawyer. I could not see myself in any profession other than the legal profession," said Anel, who has been a junior associate in the influential Villaraza & Angangco law office for the past three months.

It was his father who named him after the Trojan hero of the "Aeneid," Virgil's epic poem that recounts the adventures of Aeneas who survived the sacking of Troy and wandered for seven years before settling in what is now Italy, and becoming the reputed ancestor of the Romans.

"It did not really enter my mind that I would be No. 1. What I was praying for was to at least be in the top 10," Anel said.

While he expected to pass, he did not see himself landing on top as he recalled that after taking the test in one subject,

BAR/ A10

TWO VIEWS ON 'PASSION'

'Before true healing, we have to be wounded'

By Nestor U. Torre

SEEING Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ," we find ourselves having a hard time appreciating it on its own terms, since the controversy and media circus that have been surrounding it offer sinister seduction and clangorous distractions.

But appreciate it on its own terms we must, so we force ourselves to concentrate on the film as film. And we are richly rewarded.

"Passion" tells an all-too-familiar story, and picks up its narrative toward its climax. But it provides little background information to put the crucifixion in context—an indication that Gibson intends his film to be appreciated by people who are already believers, not prospective converts crawling desperately toward the light.

As such, Gibson's movie is valuable as a painful reminder of Christ's ultimate sacrifice for mankind, a gift of love and blood that we so often forget.

Through the centuries, the wounds of Jesus have become scars, and are no longer painful. But Gibson intentionally stabs those scars into fresh wounds again, to make Christ's sacrifice a renewed reality in our lives.

Here, he deviates in a decisive way from the modern view that, after Christ's passion, the wages of humanity's sins have already been paid, so we can concentrate on savoring our Resurrection.

BEFORE/ A22

EDWIN BACASMAS

'KAHIT KONTING PAGTINGIN'

Just like in the movies, there's a happy ending after a "misunderstanding". between Fernando Poe Jr. and GMA 7 reporter Sandra Aguinaldo during a grand campaign rally at Freedom Park in Iloilo City. ***(Story on Page A2.)***

'Jesus Christ suffered and died so we don't have to'

By Fr. Ferdinand R.S. Santos
Contributor

The author is a professor of philosophy and theology at the Providence College in Rhode Island in the United States. He once served as chaplain of the University of the Philippines and taught at the Ateneo de Manila, De La Salle University and San Carlos Seminary.-ED.

DESPITE the criticism and controversy weeks before its release in the United States, "The Passion of the Christ" proved to be an excellent film.

Critics feared it could revive anti-Semitism, and academics warned that many might mistake Mel Gibson's account of Christ's last 12 hours as "historical."

Both charges proved unfounded. The movie placed responsibility for Christ's death, not on all Jews, but on the Romans and Jewish leaders. I don't think people hated Jews after seeing the film.

But its impact was unmistakably powerful. People were in an odd, meditative mood as they left movie theaters. In Texas, an elderly woman died of a heart attack in the middle of the film.

As to the critique of Bible scholars, Gibson stressed that this was the passion told from the angle of his personal faith. He neither dismissed current biblical studies nor insisted that his movie was a "strict" historical account.

I doubt that these issues will be raised when "Passion" begins screening in the Philippines. Most Filipinos will simply take it for granted that Gibson's account

JESUS/ A22

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers of thunderstorms mostly over Mindanao

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONT PAGE

Palace: If Manila Water can do it, why can't Maynilad?

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IF MANILA Water can run its house well, why can't you?

That was Malacañang's answer to claims by Rafael M. Alunan III, former president of the Maynilad Water Services, that the firm had been burdened from the start with a "flawed system" since taking over the water distribution system for the western section of Metro Manila in 1997.

Maynilad is a joint venture between the Lopez Group's Benpres Holdings and the French-based Ondeo Services. Manila Water, of the Ayala Group, runs the much smaller eastern zone.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye sharply rebutted Alunan's statement blaming the government for the woes that led to Benpres's decision to terminate its 25-year concession.

"*Ang masasabi natin ay dalawa ang* concession, *isa doon sa* west area, *isa doon sa* east area. *Bakit mukhang maganda naman ang patakbo doon sa* east area (What we can say is that there are two concessions, one in the west area and another in the east area. Why is it that the management of the east area seems good)?" Bunye said in an interview on RMN radio.

Alunan's complaint

"But anyway, these details are perhaps better answered by the MWSS," Bunye said, referring to the state firm Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, which used to handle the water distribution business for the two zones.

In a memo he issued in June 2003, Alunan complained that Maynilad was undone by the flawed water distribution system in its concession area, incomplete and corrupted data about the concession, and employees with an "anti-privatization" mind-set.

This was aggravated by regulatory instability and government unresponsiveness to Maynilad's concerns, Alunan said.

In effect, he blamed the government for failing to ensure a stable regulatory and policy environment that Maynilad needed to deal with "extraordinary problems in its crucial years of infancy."

The company has had to defend its record following adverse public reaction to a proposed compromise settlement between Maynilad and MWSS, the state regulator.

No sweetheart deal

The deal, which calls for the MWSS to take majority control of Maynilad through a conversion of the utility's unpaid concession fees to equity, has been widely criticized, mainly by opposition politicians, as a bail-out of the politically influential Lopez family.

Both President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Lopez family denied there was any bail-out or so-called "sweetheart deal".

The President, who is facing a tough election battle in May, has said the government needed to take over Maynilad in order to protect the public from suffering disruptions in water supply.

In San Fernando City, Pampanga, a senatorial candidate of the opposition Alyansa ng Pag-asa asked the Ombudsman to suspend Justice Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee and several MWSS officials for allegedly tampering with documents pertaining to the MWSS concession agreement with Maynilad.

Lawyer Melanio "Batas" Mauricio Jr., in an urgent motion, alleged that Teehankee and MWSS officials conspired to tamper with the records of the MWSS Regulatory Office "to prevent the discovery of their criminal and malicious intent and action to bail out MWSI out of the financial rut." *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

'Other women' broke up union, says John O's ex

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Having other women, not men, was her former husband's Waterloo.

And so Sen. John "Sonny" Osmeña could not be gay, said Lucy Urgello Miller, who has taken up the cudgels for her former partner who has been accused of raping a male sex worker in Tagaytay City.

Miller, who has since remarried, told the INQUIRER in a rare interview that the issue of "other women" eventually caused the collapse of her marriage to Osmeña. They were together for seven years.

She has never heard that Osmeña had had affairs with men, she added. "What I heard were stories about the women."

"The accusation that he is gay, to me, shows that politics is really dirty. It is a baseless attack. They have no issues against him so they came out with this," Miller said.

Osmeña and Miller were married on April 27, 1969, but separated in 1975 after divorcing in the United States. They have one child—Cebu Vice Gov. John Gregory "John-John" Osmeña—who is running for governor under the administration's K-4 coalition.

Miller, now based in the US where she is a public school teacher in Norwalk, California with her American husband Rick flew to Cebu last week to show her support for her son after his name was dragged into the illegal shipment of a regulated chemical used in the manufacture of shabu.

John Gregory has denied any involvement in the case, although three of his staff members were alleged to be officials of a company that ordered the shipment.

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University of Santo Tomas	España, Manila
University of the East	Caloocan & Manila
Xavier School	Greenhills, San Juan
Provincial	
Ateneo de Davao University	Davao & Zamboanga City
Cebu Doctors College	Cebu City
Cebu Institute of Technology	Cebu City
Central Philippine University	Iloilo City
Holy Name University	Tagbilaran City
Iligan Medical Center	Iligan City
Liceo de Cagayan University	Cagayan de Oro City
Notre Dame of Dadiangas	General Santos City
Sacred Heart School for Girls	Cebu City
Silliman University	Dumaguete City
Southwestern University	Cebu City
St. Theresa's College	Cebu City
University of Perpetual Help Rizal	Molino, Cavite / Calamba, Laguna
University of San Agustin	Iloilo City
University of San Carlos	Cebu City
University of San Jose	Cebu City
University of St. La Salle	Bacolod City
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Poe confirms INC meeting but claims he failed to get nod

By Christine O. Avendaño

ILOILO CITY—Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday confirmed that he met with leaders of the Iglesia ni Cristo on Friday but admitted he was not able to get a commitment of support from the influential religious group in his bid for the presidency.

Poe said he brought along his wife, movie actress Susan Roces, to the "courtesy call" with the INC in Manila.

The couple, who spoke with reporters in Bacolod City yesterday, did not say who they met with in the INC.

All Poe would say about the meeting was that the INC officials had asked him how his campaign across the country was going.

Asked if he got the INC's endorsement, Poe merely said, "None whatsoever."

Roces described the meeting with the INC as "cordial and it didn't last very long."

"It was like visiting a friend (where there was an) exchange of ideas, an exchange of opinions about what's going on in the campaign and in the country," Roces told reporters.

Roces said she believed that the INC and all other sectors were still "studying which candidate to support."

Asked if her husband would also meet with another influential religious group, the El Shaddai, Roces said this was a possibility.

In the meantime, President Macapagal-Arroyo's camp was unfazed by reports that Poe had met with INC Executive Minister Eraño G. Manalo himself.

The President had sought an audience with Manalo last month but failed to get one. Manalo had sent his son instead.

Michael T. Defensor, campaign spokesperson of the President, said if it was true that Poe had been granted an audience by Manalo himself, then "we will respect that."

He said Manalo had expressed a willingness to host the President next time.

"He (Manalo) was not feeling well at the time but he told us he would receive the President the next time she paid a visit," Defensor said.

Defensor, who is the President's personal liaison to the INC, said the meeting would happen soon.

Asked if he expected the INC to support the President instead of Poe, Defensor said: "I cannot comment on that because the INC makes its decision in the last few days (of the campaign). But of course we are hoping that they will support the President." *With Juliet Labog-Javellana*

FPJ, TV reporter kiss and make up

By Christine O. Avendano

BACOLOD CITY—She has seen him up close and personal for over 30 years, and so should know best.

"FPJ is a patient person but he is also a human being," his wife, movie actress Susan Roces said yesterday as she took time out with the media to give an insight into what presidential aspirant Fernando Poe Jr., the man she had been married to for over three decades, is all about.

And indeed the man whom Roces said "is not made of stone," had kissed and made up with a television news reporter he had a falling out with while covering a rally for the opposition bet in Tigbauan, Iloilo on Thursday.

There were no apologies extended in Poe's reconciliation with GMA 7 reporter Sandra Aguinaldo on Friday in Iloilo City. But the two shook hands and thanked each other politely.

Poe got flak for publicly "berating" Aguinaldo Thursday night after she stood near him while he was addressing a rally in Tigbauan. Aguinaldo had said she was on stage to do a "stand upper" or an on-the-scene reporting of the rally and did not mean to disrupt his speech.

Poe's allies said it was just a misunderstanding between the two, and that the movie actor did not mean to embarrass her.

The actor sought out Aguinaldo from a flock of media persons on the stage of the Freedom Grandstand in Iloilo City Friday night, apparently to clear the air.

"How are you?" he said, extending his hand to the reporter who accepted the gesture.

Poe again asked Aguinaldo how she was. The reporter then pointedly ask him why he got mad with her Thursday night.

"I wasn't angry, and that's the truth," he assured her, adding that he merely asked her whether she wanted to say something.

"Let's forget everything, if it's okay with you?" Poe told her. "Let's work together as professionals . You do your job and I do mine."

Aguinaldo then took the opportunity to ask him about an earlier promise he had given her "When I make a promise, tuloy yun," he told her. Aguinaldo later said the "promise" was a request for a one-on-one interview with Poe.

"*Ayos lang, siguro naintindihan niya na rin* somehow *ang pag* stand up *ko* (It's okay. At least he understands now why I had to do a stand upper)," Aguinaldo told her colleagues later.

Roces told reporters that her husband and Aguinaldo simply had a "misunderstanding" as she stressed that both of them were right on the positions they had taken on the matter.

She said her husband acted the way he did because he had been distracted by what Aguinaldo did, but added it was part of her job.

However, she said that Poe's years of training as an actor had taught him that "*pag eksena mo lang, ikaw ang nasa eksena*" (If you are in the spotlight, it's your show).

Two administration congressmen, on the other hand, have questioned Poe's promise to be a peacemaker after he refused to apologize to Aguinaldo. *With Cynthia D. Balana*

Shell raises LPG price

PRICES of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.'s cooking gas rose by P1 per kg starting at 12:01 a.m. today.

An 11-kg cylinder of Shellane would now cost P11 more than the previous P310 to P320 levels.

Shell general manager for external affairs Roberto Kanapi said the hike in prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was a reaction to the rise in international contract prices (ICP) for LPG, the benchmark used for local retail prices, by $27.50 per metric ton this month.

Kanapi said in a phone interview yesterday that the increase in ICP from March to April was "abnormal" as prices in the world market usually went down in the summer months.

"This is the first time in 10 years that the ICP from March to April increased. The market is affected by big users China and Japan, which held off purchasing the products in February in anticipation of lower prices," he said.

Since prices showed no signs of letting up, he said, China and Japan suddenly bought their LPG requirements, thus boosting the ICP.

Other oil firms selling LPG—including Petron Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc. and Total (Philippines) Corp.—have yet to advise on their own price adjustments.

Petron officials said they were still evaluating the situation, and would announce an adjustment after a thorough review of the matter.

But an industry source said the $27.50-per-MT rise in international prices should reflect a P1.57 per kg increase in local LPG prices, considering the current peso-dollar exchange rate. *Abigail L. Ho*

Moneychanger linked to JI arrested

COTABATO CITY—A moneychanger suspected of links to the al-Qaida-affiliated Jemaah Islamiyah terror group was arrested here Saturday, officials said.

Vice Mayor Japal Guiani Jr. said the moneychanger, Jordan Abdulah, was identified as the owner of a house allegedly used as a hideout by suspected JI members.

A local National Bureau of Investigation official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said one of Abdulah's biggest clients as a money changer was Taufic Rifqui, an alleged Indonesian JI member arrested in this city last year. *AP*

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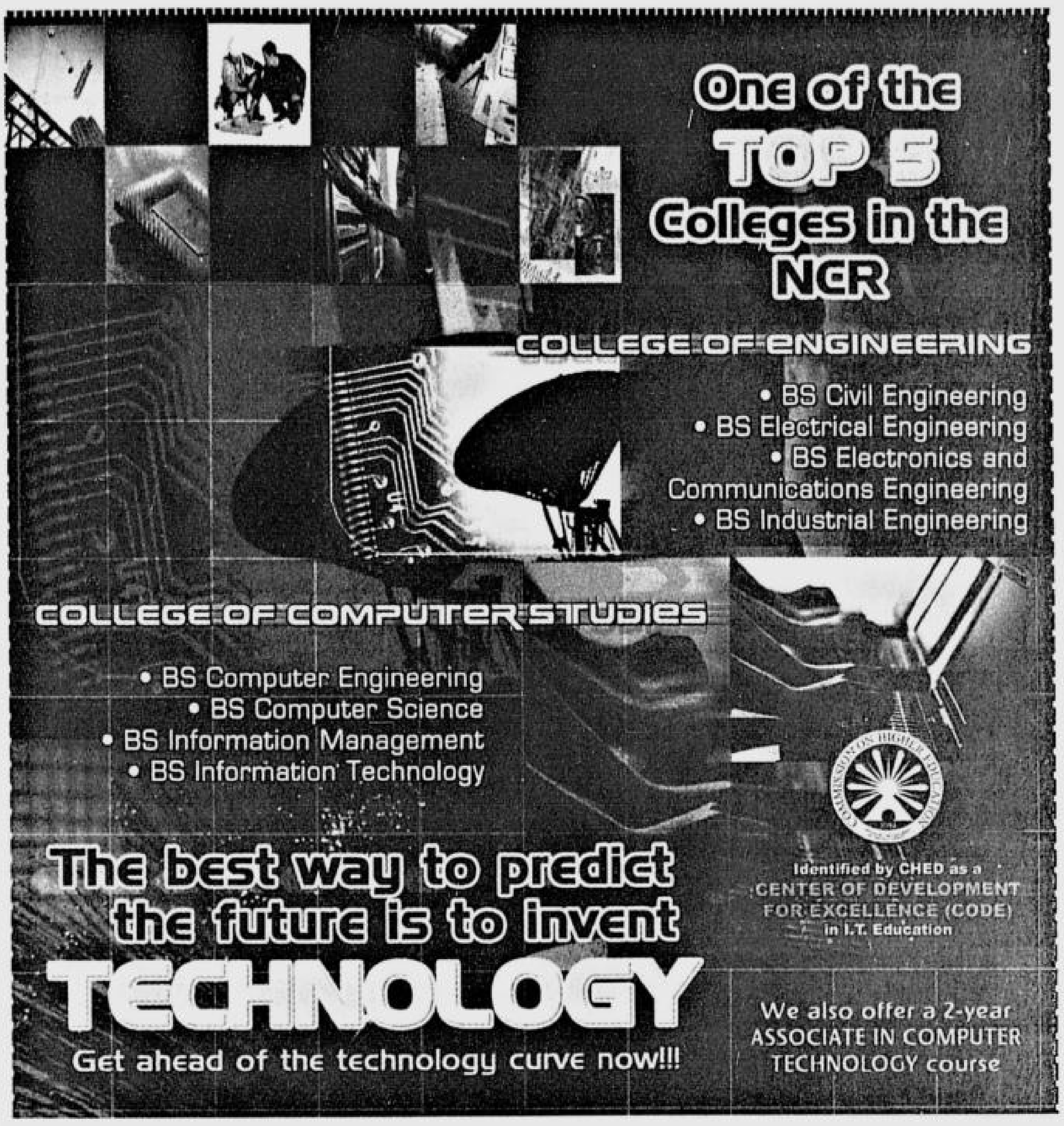
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Cops placed on heightened alert nationwide through summer

By Alcuin Papa

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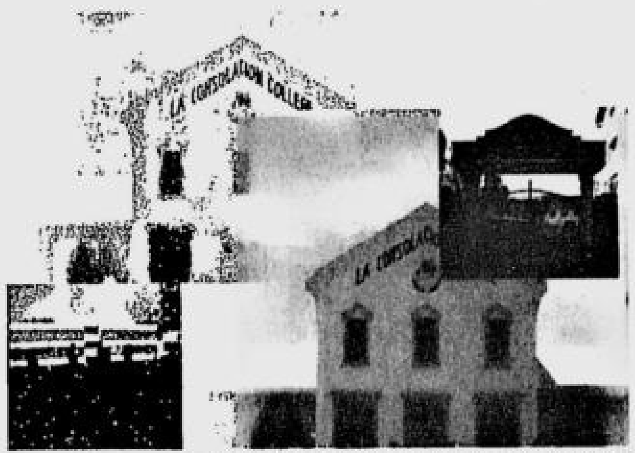

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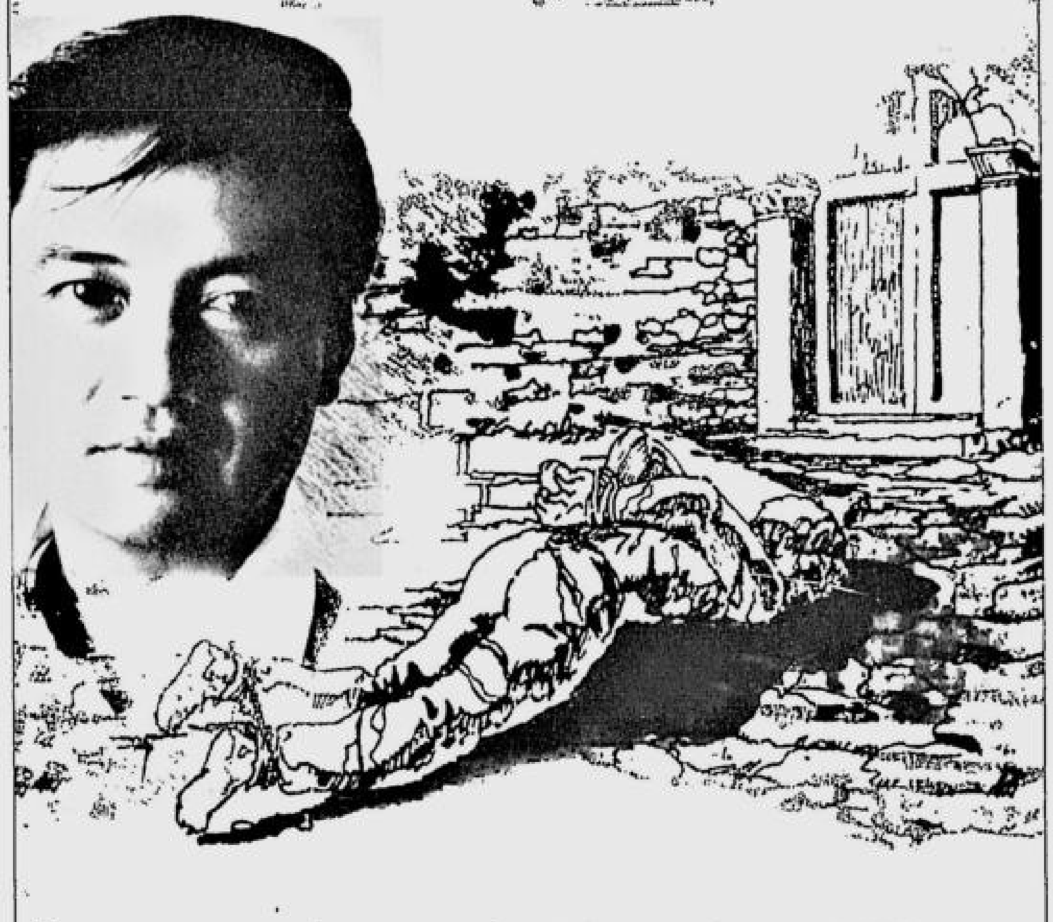

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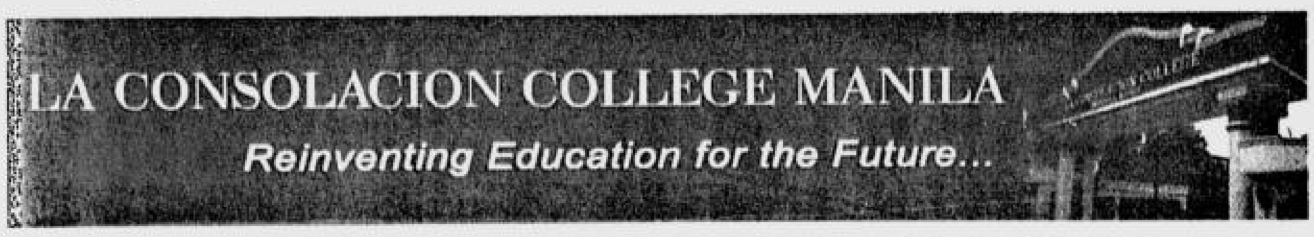
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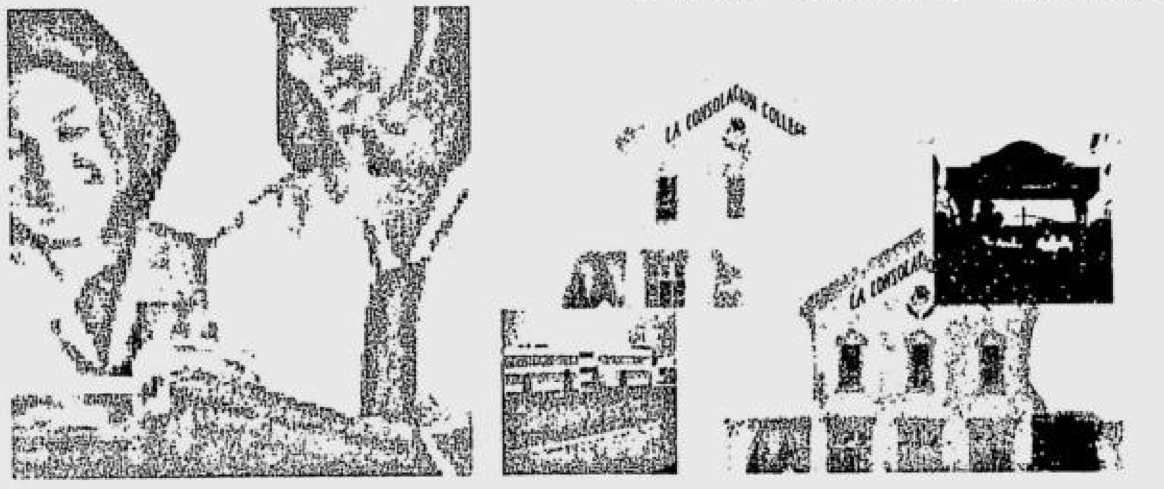

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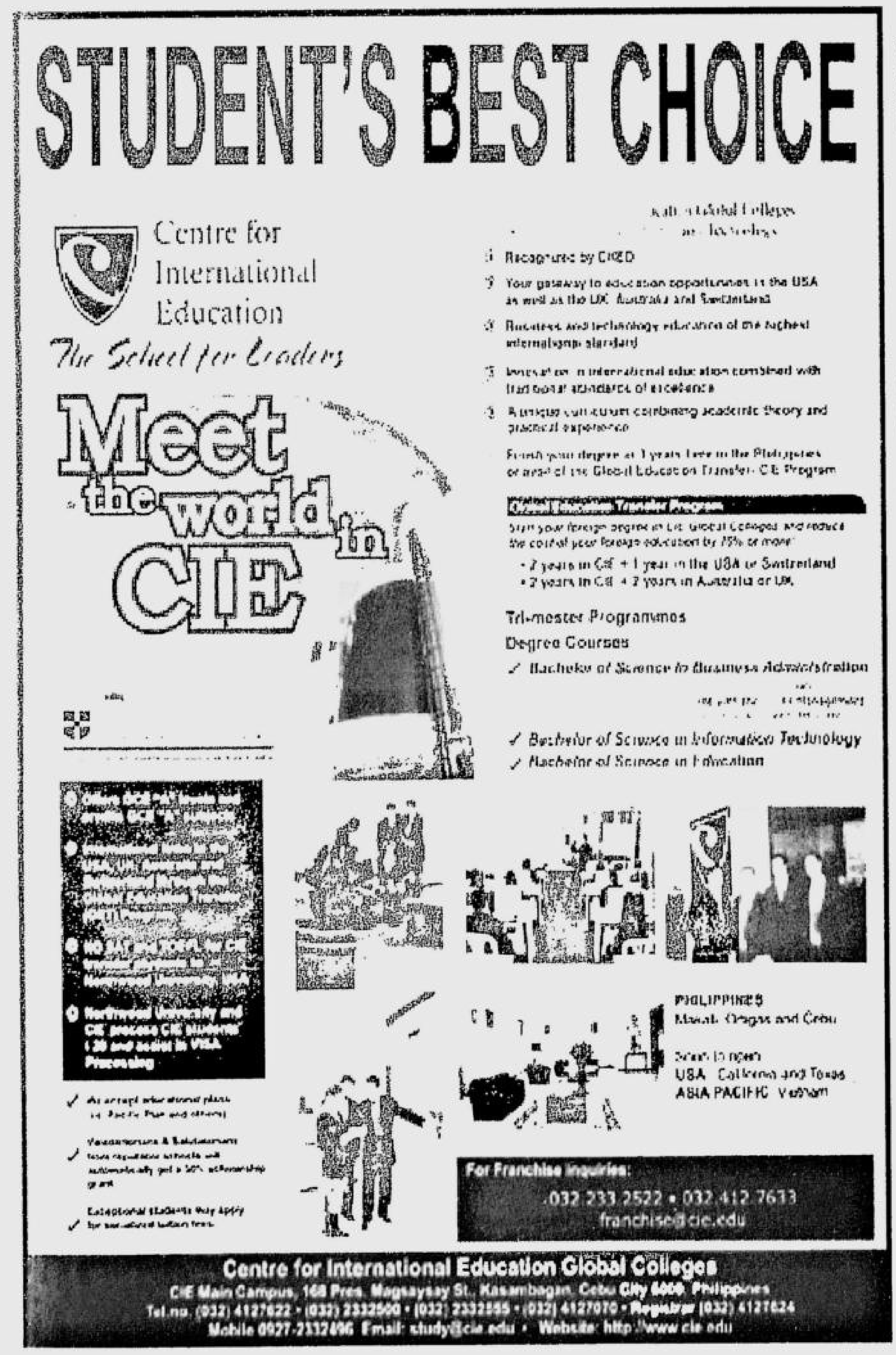
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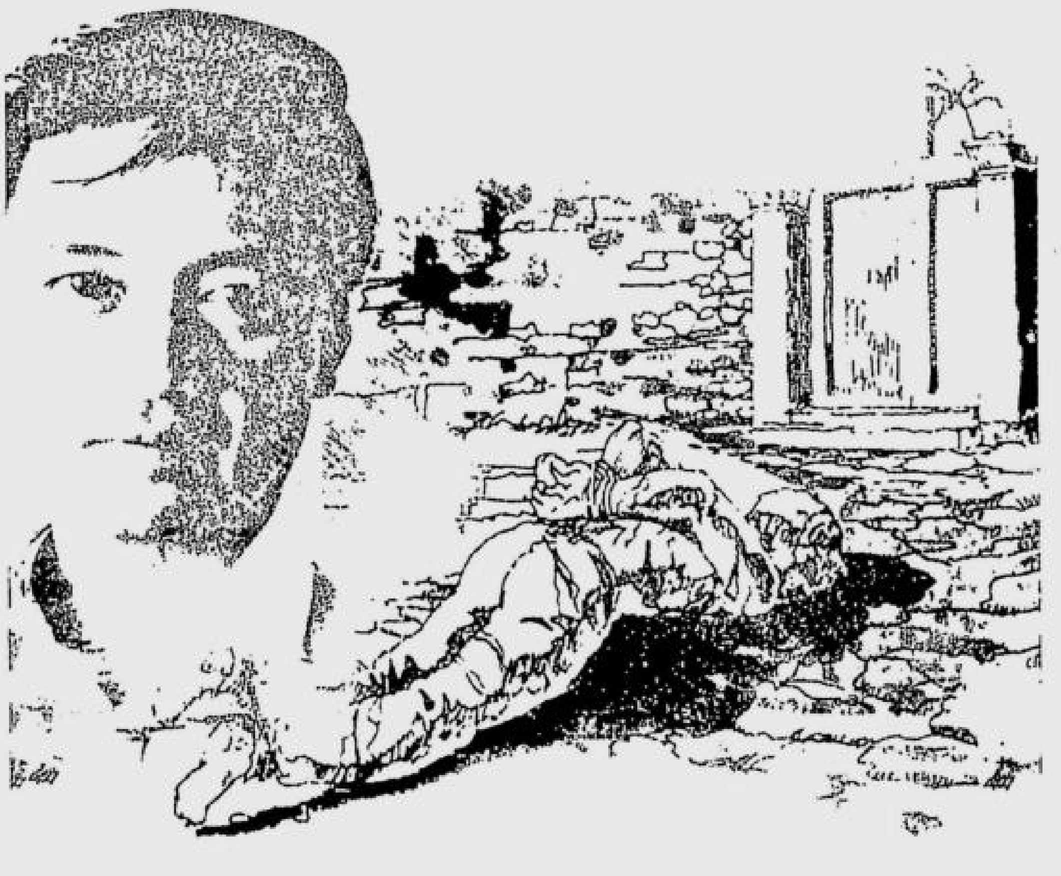

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Frail Cardinal Sin marks golden jubilee as a priest

By Martin P. Marfil

THE AILING Jaime Cardinal Sin, hailed as the religious leader of two people power revolutions, marked his golden jubilee as a priest yesterday in a Mass attended by the two main beneficiaries of the twin Edsa events—President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Corazon Aquino.

Sin, who suffers from a kidney ailment, was wheeled to the altar of the Manila Cathedral on a special platform.

His responses were inaudible in some parts of the concelebrated Mass attended by 41 bishops and some 300 priests.

He also toiled to read his prepared message.

Unwell

"He is not well but he made us well," said Bishop Socrates Villegas whose homily, titled "Power in Weakness," was a tribute to Sin.

Villegas revealed that Sin had not actually been well the past 50 years as he suffered intermittent asthma attacks, underwent emergency stomach surgery in 1981, contracted a severe form of chicken pox 10 years later which endangered his life, and now suffers from a kidney ailment.

"And yet the reality is he has done so well for the Church. He has done so well for the nation. He has done well for all of us and we would be less well than we are now were it not for the priesthood of this man of God," Villegas said.

If Sin had been well enough to read his message yesterday, those present would have seen flashes of his familiar wit.

Rich

The piece titled "I am rich" was distributed to the media.

In it, Sin said he had seen many jubilees like silver, ruby, pearl and sapphire. He said he reached his diamond year when he turned 75 last year and became "golden" this year of his 50th year as a priest.

"If only for these jubilees, I am a bejeweled man. I am rich," he said.

In the same message document, he said that he would not be able to relate his life story without mentioning Edsa.

"It is the most important chapter of my life. I admit finding secret joy and pride in being called the Cardinal of the Edsa revolution. I do not claim that as a right. It is a grace that I do not deserve at all. It is a blessing to have been the Archbishop of Manila at that moment in history," he said.

Pride

Now that he has retired, Sin said that he can look at the city and the nation with a deep sense of pride and gratitude.

"I have given my best. I have run the race to freedom. I may have been wounded in battle but the world has become a bit more beautiful by my puny sacrifice. Thanks to God," he said.

Sin retired on his 75th birthday last year.

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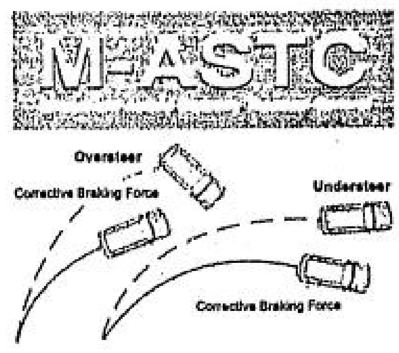

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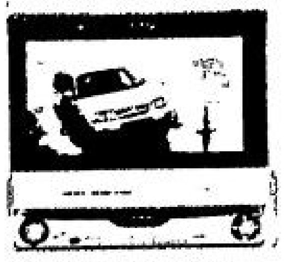

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GMA admits US was training Filipino soldiers to defend Spratlys vs China

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said Saturday the United States military was training Philippine soldiers to defend the Spratly islands against China until she asked them to shift to fighting the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf Muslim extremist group.

It was the first time that a Philippine leader had acknowledged that China was a target of military exercises between Philippine and US forces.

In her weekly radio program, Ms Macapagal said US military assistance to the Philippines, principally for antiterrorism, had ballooned from $1.9 million when she took office three years ago to $400 million, and the country was expected to get more after Washington declared the Philippines a major non-NATO ally.

The Abu Sayyaf has conducted numerous kidnappings, including of American and other foreign tourists, and is notorious for beheading captives. In the past week, the government said it prevented "Madrid-level" bombings of malls and trains in the capital allegedly planned by Abu Sayyaf members trained by Jemaah Islamiyah, a Southeast Asian terror group linked to al-Qaida.

"America has helped us in our fight against terrorism," she said. "When the Abu Sayyaf emerged, I told the Americans, 'I don't want the training to defend the Spratlys against the Chinese anymore – it's not relevant and it's not realistic.'"

The two allies hold an annual military exercise, called Balikatan or "shoulder-to-shoulder," in accordance with a 1951 defense treaty under which Filipino and US troops cooperate to beef up the Philippines' defense.

China has expressed concern about the possibility of being targeted as a hypothetical enemy in the exercises and that some activities may be held in the Spratlys.

Philippine defense officials had taken pains in the past to clarify that such exercises were "not directed at any particular country, adversary or national enemy."

The conflict between China and the Philippines over the small islands in the South China Sea has simmered over the years and has been a thorn in bilateral relations.

The Spratlys straddle important shipping lanes, teem with fish and are believed to be rich in oil and natural gas. China, Vietnam and Taiwan claim the entire chain, while the Philippines, Brunei and Malaysia claim some of the islands. *AP*

DepEd warns of 'review classes' scam

By Dona Pazzibugan

EDUCATION Secretary Edilberto de Jesus has warned incoming high school freshmen against falling for a scam involving private review centers offering so-called "review classes" as a way out of having to take the new five-year high school course.

De Jesus said taking such classes was no guarantee that students would not have to undergo the one-year "pre-high school bridge program," the new high school curriculum being introduced by the DepEd for incoming freshmen.

De Jesus also warned public school officials against involving themselves in these review centers.

Beginning in June, public high schools are to start a five year curriculum called the "Pre-secondary Bridge Program" which will add an extra year between sixth grade and first-year high school.

The DepEd said the extra year would enable students to master their elementary English, Science and Math subjects, before going on to take high school subjects.

All incoming first-year students of public high schools will be required to take the High School Readiness Test (HSRT) scheduled for May 24.

Based on his or her test result, a student either undergoes an extra year of pre-high school, or proceeds to the regular four-year high school curriculum.

De Jesus said his office has received reports that several private firms were offering review classes for the HSRT.

"Some use the slogan, 'Why take the bridge when you can pass the test?,'" De Jesus said in a memo on March 12.

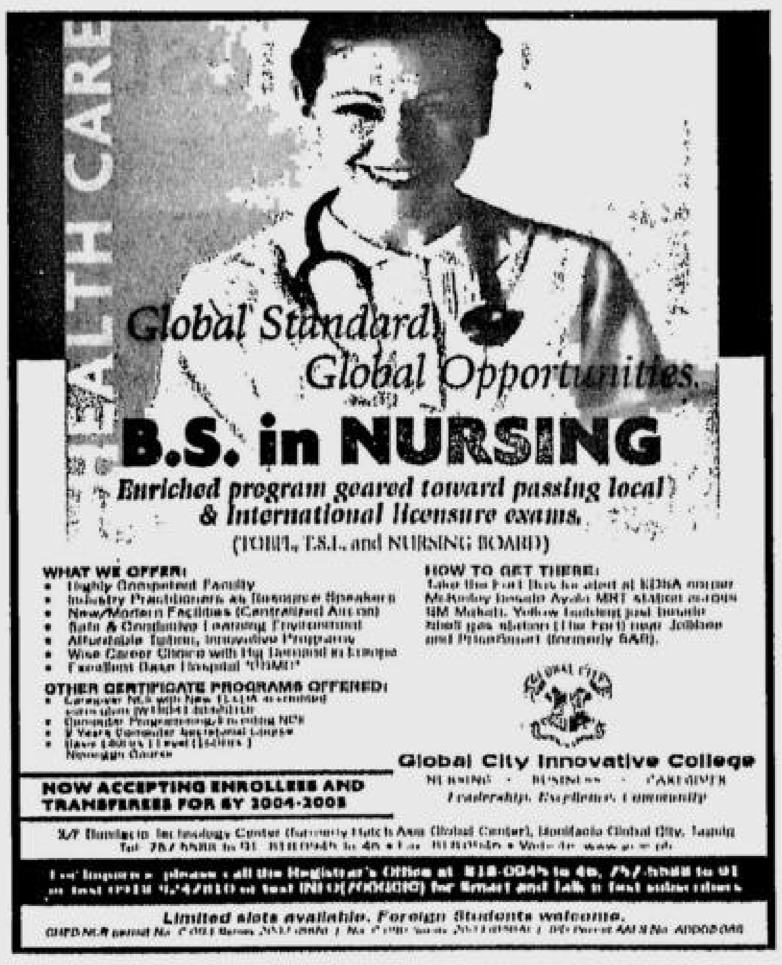
He said the DepEd does not and will not endorse "any review classes for any commercial undertaking."

He advised students and their parents to find out first if these review centers had legal permits, competent reviewers and good facilities.

"It cannot be overemphasized that taking the review classes does not ensure success in the HSRT, especially if such classes are of poor quality," he said.

Some teachers and parents have protested the "added burden" of an extra school year under the new five-year curriculum.

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers has called the bridge program a "waste of time and resources" because of its allegedly doubtful effect on students' academic standings.



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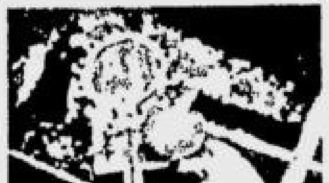

Water interruption in portions of Quezon City, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Pasig due to water improvement project

Manila Water announced it will conduct several activities on mainlines along EDSA and Santolan to upgrade and improve water distribution from the Balara water treatment plants.

The water cutoff will be from **12:01 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Tuesday, April 6, 2004.**

Affected areas are:

San Juan: Once, Tibagan, Maytunas, Isabelita, Little Baguio, Hagdang Bato, Sto. Niño, Pasadeña, Valencia, Corazon De Jesus, and Greenhills.

Mandaluyong: Wack-Wack, Pleasant Hills, Addition Hills, Hagdang Bato, Libis, Mauway, Highway Hills, Malamig, Barangka Drive, Barangka Ilaya, Barangka Ibaba, Barangka Itaas, Buwayang Bato, Plainview and Hagdang Bato Itaas.

Pasig: San Antonio, Orambo, Kapitolyo and Valle Verde 4 & 5.

Quezon City: Horseshoe Drive, San Martin, Bagong Lipunan, Camp Crame, Camp Aguinaldo, Immaculate Conception, Socorro, Murphy, St. Ignatius, White Plains, Corinthian Hills, Corinthian Gardens, Pinagkaisahan, Mariana, Kristong Hari, New Manila, Kalusugan, upper portion of Green Meadows, Valle Verde 6 and part of Project. 4.

Residents are advised to store enough water prior to the schedule of the water interruption.

Manila Water

For the latest update, please call our Customer Call Center Hotline at 1627.

Suit tags US in gold caper

ATLANTA, Georgia—A lawsuit claims the US government helped steal possibly trillions of dollars in gold from an amateur Filipino treasure hunter.

Sounding like something right out of an Indiana Jones movie, Atlanta attorney Bill Stone insisted: "The government has done stranger things."

Court documents state that Roger Roxas, an amateur treasure hunter, reportedly found the Yamashita Treasure, which included a one-meter high Buddha made of gold and boxes full of gold bricks, the documents said.

Court documents state that between 1971 and 1974, then President Ferdinand Marcos ordered his agents to torture Roxas into revealing the location of the gold. Stone, an attorney for Golden Buddha, an Atlanta corporation now pursuing Roxas' claim against the government, said the US government helped the Marcos regime remove the gold from the Philippines and convert it.

Stone said his firm and a San Francisco attorney have gathered documents, taken depositions and have determined that the Americans involved "were working under the auspices of the CIA." *AP*

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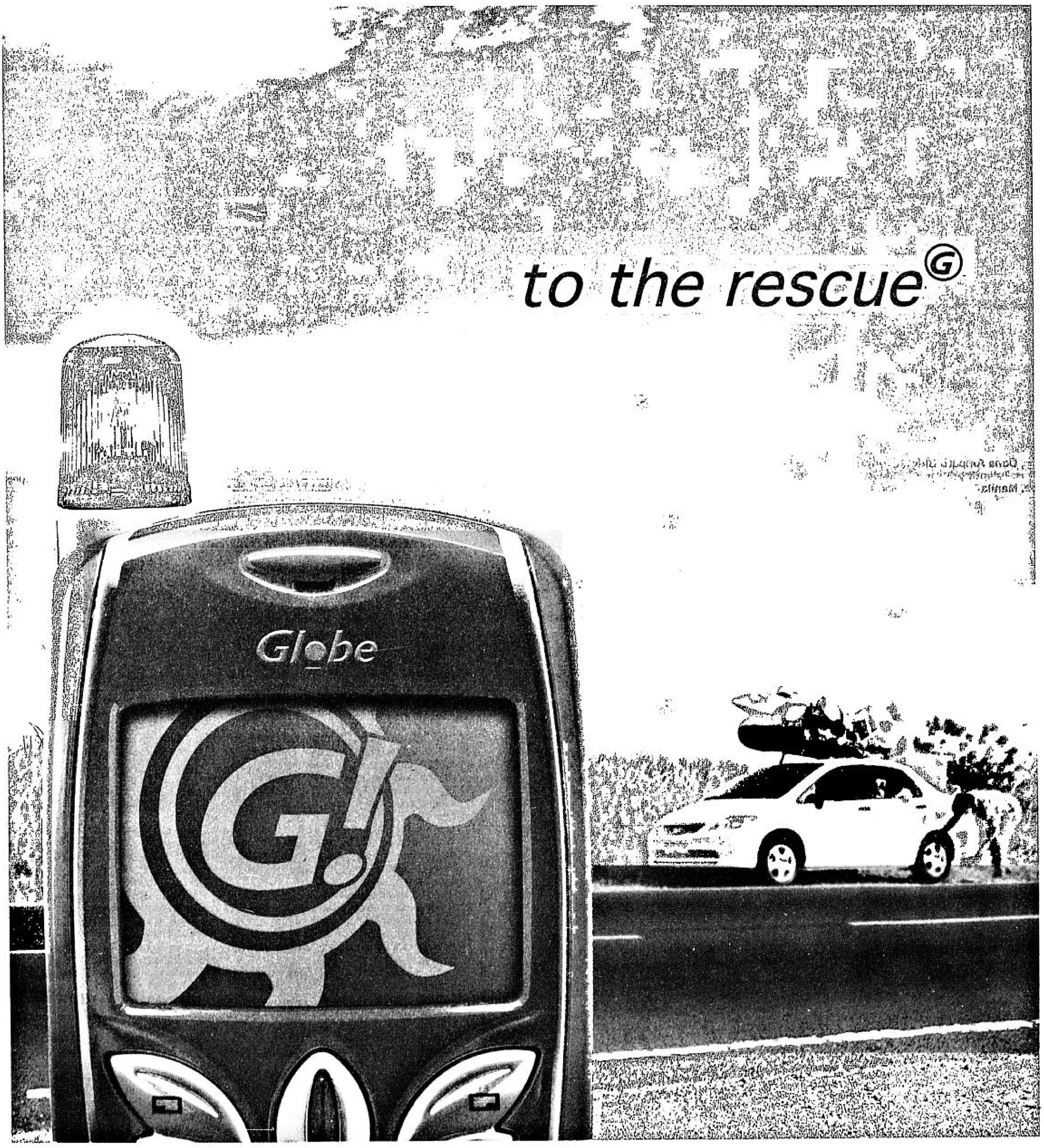

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Christ's entry into Jerusalem recalled

By Martin P. Marfil and Minerva Generalao, *Research*

CHRISTENDOM celebrates Palm Sunday today marking the triumphant entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem to cheers of "Hosanna" and crowds waving palm fronds in greeting.

Many Christian churches around the world re-enact Jesus' return to Jerusalem with a procession. In the Philippines, priests bless coconut palm fronds with holy water, a tradition dating back to the 16th century when Spanish colonizers introduced Roman Catholicism and its rituals.

The fronds blessed on Palm Sunday are taken home by the faithful and used as a sacramental. They are placed in prominent places in the house around religious, statues and other objects. They remain there for a year until the next Palm Sunday when they are replaced by newly blessed palms. The ashes used in Ash Wednesday rites are taken from the prior year's palms or fronds.

Pope John Paul II, in his Palm Sunday homily in April 2001, said that today's celebration begins with "Hosanna!" and ends with "Crucify Him!"

These words, probably shouted by the same people and within a few days, sum up the two events being recalled by the faithful today, the triumphant entry of Christ to Jerusalem and his passion and death a few days later.

Archbishop Fernando Capalla, Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines president, appealed to colleagues and lay leaders to preserve the solemnity of the religious rites and observe the message of the season.

"I am appealing to my brother bishops and priests, the religious and lay leaders who are actively engaged in ceremonies of Holy Week...the message of Holy Week is very simple (and) I think there are ... practices that can be avoided," Capalla said.

He was referring to people who join religious processions and pray the stations of the cross, but talk and laugh among themselves.

He was also referring to those who dramatize Christ's passion but remain detached from His sufferings.

"Something is lacking ... Christ talks about justice, caring, honesty ... (we should) use Holy Week to (spread) the teachings of the Church," he said.

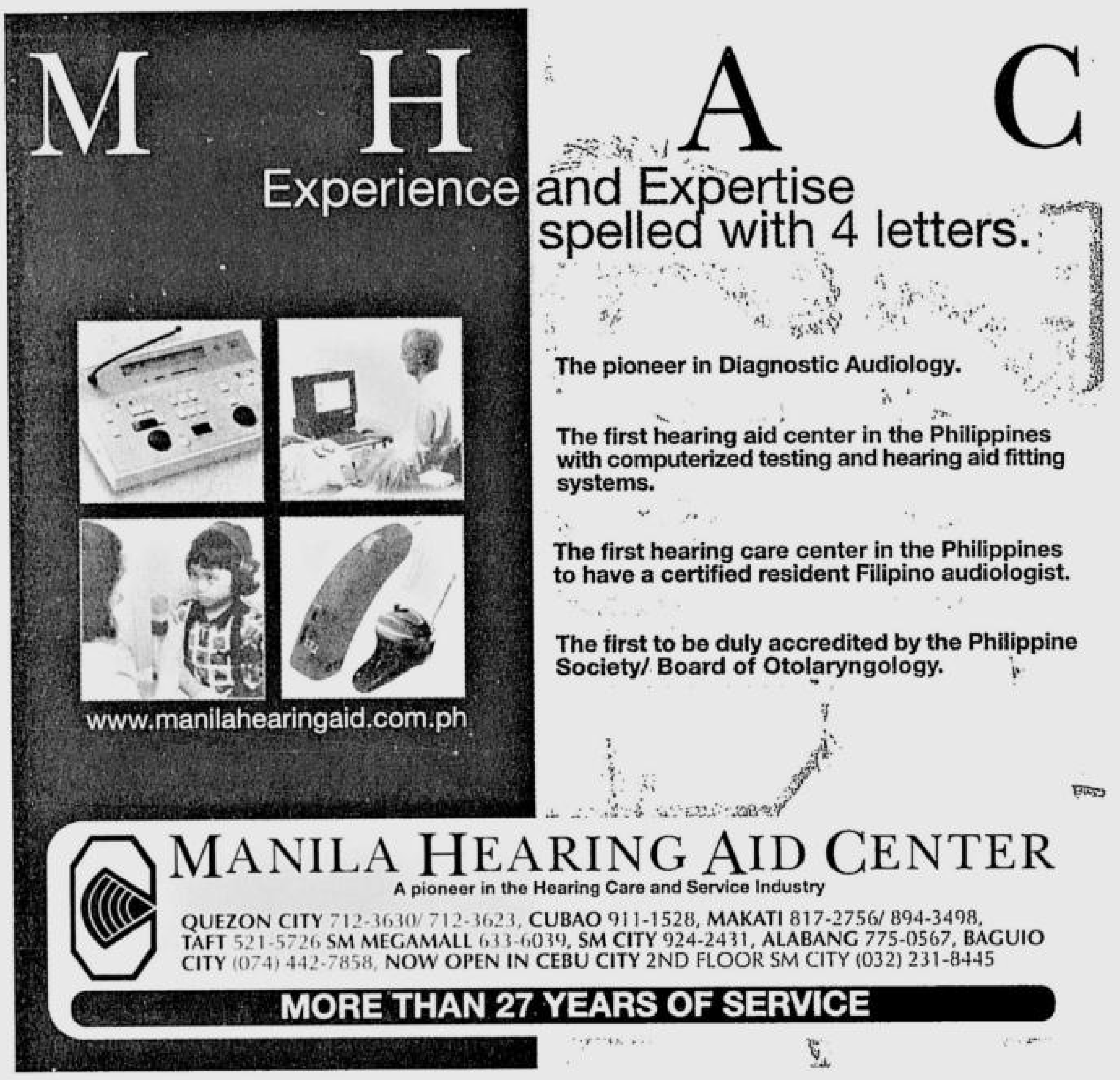
In Davao, they launched "Kumpisalan ng Bayan" where priests went to the neighborhoods to hear confessions.

Capalla said he was happy cinemas have decided to show the movie "The Passion of the Christ" as it touches the hearts of people.

Oscar Cruz, former CBCP president, said Palm Sunday is the time for Catholics to reflect on their faith which is based on the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.

"(Like Christ), we Catholics should not only dwell on our sufferings and sorrows, but also our victories," Cruz told reporters.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, also called Passion Week, the most solemn and intense period of worship in the Christian world, which culminates in the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, the cornerstone of the faith.



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PNP opens probe of NAKTF culpability in shootout

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE National Police is investigating whether operatives of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (NAKTF)followed the rules of engagement in their shoot-out Thursday with five suspected members of the Allan Balimbingan gang.

The shoot-out, which took place on a crowded street in Navotas, resulted in the killing of 4-year-old Jennifer Gallando and four of the suspected kidnappers, and the wounding of 10 other people, including five children.

"We want to see if there was adherence to the rules of engagement," PNP Director for Operations Avelino Razon yesterday told the INQUIRER.

He said the National Capital Region Police Office, through the Northern Police District, was looking into the matter as a standard operating procedure after a shoot-out.

Razon said the "relative positions" of the suspected kidnappers and the NAKTF agents would be examined to determine the trajectory of the bullet that killed Gallando.

If it is found that the fatal bullet was fired by a NAKTF operative, homicide and other charges will be filed, Razon said.

On Friday, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the government was taking full responsibility for the killing of Gallando and ordered an investigation.

She also said the NAKTF under ex-Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and the PNP should review the rules of engagement.

'Like Lacson'

Ousted President Joseph Estrada said the killing of the child, the alleged bungled operations, and the reported "staged-managed kidnappings" by the NAKTF had put Reyes in the same situation as that of presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Estrada said in a phone interview that Reyes was now being subjected to the same accusations thrown at Lacson when he was head of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission and, later, PNP chief.

But Estrada said that while the charges against Lacson were not true, those against Reyes could be real.

"*Masyadong gustong sumikat* (He desperately wants to grab the limelight)," Estrada said.

He dared Reyes to go after the kidnapping syndicates' financiers and backers, and not just the "small fry."

Earlier, Lorna Justine Ramoso, widow of a supposed civilian agent and close-in bodyguard of Reyes, charged him and several ranking military and police officials before the Ombudsman with killing her husband and staging the kidnap and rescue of certain persons to gain the trust of the Chinese-Filipino community. Reyes has denied this.

Ramoso yesterday phoned the Inquirer to say that she had been receiving death threats since she filed the case. *Reports from Alcuin Papa, Armand N. Nocum, Michael Lim Ubac and Cynthia D. Balana*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, April 4, 2004
Passion Sunday

1st Reading: **Is 50:4-7**

The Lord Yahweh has taught me so I speak as his disciple and I know how to sustain the weary. Morning after morning he wakes me up to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord Yahweh has opened my ear. I have not rebelled, nor have I withdrawn.

I offered my back to those who strike me, my cheeks to those who pulled my beard; neither did I shield my face from blows, spittle and disgrace. I have not despaired, for the Lord Yahweh comes to my help.

So, like a flint I set my face, knowing that I will not be disgraced.

2nd Reading: **Phil 2:6-11**

Though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be gnashed but emptied himself, taking on the nature of a servant, made in human likeness, and in his appearance found as a man. He humbled himself by being obedient to death, death on the cross.

That is why God exalted him and gave him the Name which outshines all names, so that at the Name of Jesus all knees should bend in heaven, on earth and among the dead, and all tongues proclaim that Christ Jesus is the Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel: **Lk 23:1-49**

The whole council rose and brought Jesus to Pilate. They gave their accusation: "We found this man subverting our nation, opposing payment of taxes to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ the king."

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "You said so." Turning to the chief priests and the crowd, Pilate said, "I find no basis for a case against this man." But they insisted, "All the country of the Jews is being stirred up with his teaching. He began in Galilee and now he has come all the way here."

When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. Finding the accused to come under Herod's jurisdiction, Pilate sent Jesus over to Herod who happened to be in Jerusalem at that time.

Herod was delighted to have Jesus before him now; for a long time he had wanted to see him because of the reports about him, and he was hoping to see Jesus work some miracle. He piled up question upon question, but got no reply from Jesus.

All the while the chief priests and the Scribes remained standing there, vehemently pressing their accusations. Finally, Herod ridiculed him and with his guards mocked him. And when he had put a rich cloak on him, he sent him back to Pilate. Pilate and Herod who were enemies before, became friends from that day.

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the elders before all the people, and said to them, "You have brought this man before me and accused him of subversion. In your presence I have examined him and found no basis for your charges. And neither has Herod, for he sent him back to me. It is quite clear that this man has done nothing that deserves a death sentence. I will therefore have him scourged and then release him." (On the Passover Pilate had to release a prisoner.)

Howling as one man, they protested: "No! Away with this man! Release Barabbas instead." This man had been thrown into prison for an uprising in the city and for murder.

Since Pilate wanted to release Jesus, he appealed to the crowd once more, but they shouted back, "To the cross with him! To the cross!" A third time Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? Since no crime deserving death has been proved, I shall have him scourged and let him go."

But they went on shouting and demanding that Jesus be crucified, and their shouts grew louder. So Pilate decided to pass the sentence they demanded. He released the man they asked for, the one who was in prison for rebellion and murder, and he delivered Jesus in accordance with their wishes.

When they led Jesus away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the fields, and laid the cross on him, to carry it behind Jesus.

A large crowd of people followed him; among them were women beating their breast and wailing for him, but Jesus turned to them and said, "Women of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep rather for yourselves and for your children. For the days are coming when people will say: 'Happy are the women without child! Happy are those who have not given birth or nursed a child! And they will say to the mountains: Fall on us! And to the hills: Cover us!" For if this is the lot of the green wood, what will happen to the dry?"

Along with Jesus, two criminals also were led out to be executed. There at the place called The Skull he was crucified together with the criminals—one on his right and another on his left. (Jesus said, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do.") And the guards cast lots to divide his clothes among themselves.

The people stood by watching. As for the rulers, they jeered at him, saying to one another, "Let the man who saved others now save himself, for he is the Messiah, the chosen one of God!"

The soldiers also mocked him and when they drew near to offer him bitter wine, they said, "So you are the king of the Jews? Free yourself!" For above him was an inscription which read, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals hanging with Jesus insulted him, "So you are the Messiah? Save yourself and us as well!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Have you no fear of God, you who received the same sentence as he did? For us it is just: this is payment for what we have done. But this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "Truly, you will be with me today in paradise."

It was now about noon. The sun was hidden and darkness came over the whole land until mid-afternoon; and at that time the curtain of the Sanctuary was torn in two. Then Jesus gave a loud cry, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." And saying that, he gave up his spirit.

The captain on seeing what had happened, acknowledged the hand of God. He said, "Surely this was an upright man." And all the people who had gathered to watch the spectacle, as soon as they saw what had happened went home beating their breasts. Only those who knew Jesus stood at a distance, especially the women who had followed him from Galilee; they witnessed all this.

Commentary

"He changed sunset into sunrise," wrote Clement of Alexandria (about 200 AD). He changed the meaning of death. His disciples, because of the memory and knowledge of him, could even run towards it. Ignatius of Antioch (martyred in 107 AD) wanted to be "a libation poured out to God." In a letter to the Christians in Rome, where he was being brought bound to be thrown to the beasts in the Coliseum, he wrote, "There is an altar ready for me. You may form a loving choir around it and sing hymns of praise in Jesus Christ to the Father, for permitting me, Syria's bishop, summoned from the realms of the morning [the East], to have reached the land of the setting sun [Italy, to the west of Syria]. How good it is to be sinking down below the world's horizon towards God, to rise again later into the dawn of his presence!"

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** In selected campuses*

New power crisis ...

From page A1

climate in the industry as a whole, he said.

Lopez formula

Lopez issued the same warning in a briefing to the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) last week, saying the only way to avoid the return of chronic blackouts was to allow power utilities—like the Lopez-controlled Manila Electric Co.—to contract their own new power supplies.

He told the businessmen a power crisis, aggravated by a debt crisis, would surely spell an economic meltdown for the Philippines.

The Lopez outlook has irked Energy Secretary Vince Perez for being too alarmist, while the solution the FirstGen executive proposed raised fears among businessmen that it could lead to more "sweetheart deals," such as that, they said, between Meralco and Lopez-owned power plants.

Perez told the INQUIRER: "It's a bit puzzling for me that they have been going around making these presentations practically to everybody except us. We don't like to scare the public. That is not our style at the DOE (Department of Energy). As long as we work together, we can avert a power crisis."

Buying time

Lopez said additional capacity should have already been installed in the Visayas and Mindanao as early as last year.

For these parts of the country, he said in his presentation, it might already be too late to avoid a crisis situation.

Lopez stressed, however, that even if FirstGen's independent study of the industry resulted in an estimated supply shortfall by 2007 in Luzon, the government could still "borrow some time to push out the 2007 reckoning date for Luzon brownouts."

According to Lopez's presentation, some of the solutions that could buy the industry more time included government's preparedness to reactivate mothballed or decommissioned plants, voluntary load curtailment by big power users, and the timely completion of transmission line projects.

Also, since the industry was not attracting necessary investments to build new plants or increase capacity in existing ones, the government should use its "borrowed time" wisely so as not to further downgrade the current state of the industry, Lopez said.

Don't give in to populism

He suggested that the government not give in to the "populist tide," like it did two years ago when the Napocor's purchased power cost adjustment (PPCA) was capped at 40 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

The PPCA cap drove down the state firm's revenues, further expanding its losses and pushing it to borrow even more.

As a result, he said, the power industry "retreated into a shell," not exerting any effort to explain the full implication of the cap and at the same time not infusing any more new investments into the industry.

"We should fix the power industry and get reforms back on track," he said.

4 options

The FirstGen presentation laid down four options to prevent an acute power shortage:

Let the government build its own plants, let the government ink new deals with independent power producers, let the private sector build merchant plants, and let power utilities choose from whom they will buy their supply.

Lopez told businessmen that the first two options involving the state were not feasible because of its huge debts and ballooning budget deficit and the law mandates the privatization and deregulation of the power industry.

Lopez crossed out the third option, the construction of merchant plants, because it was unattractive to investors.

Perez disagreed, saying several investors had expressed keen interest in putting their money into merchant plants.

"We think merchant plants are a viable option to solve the power crisis, which is why we are exploring this area," Perez said.

Only viable alternative

Lopez said the only remaining viable long term option, compatible with privatization and deregulation, was for power utilities to contract their own new power supplies.

An FPI member, Floro Bunag of the Philippine Wood Producers' Association, warned that allowing that might result in "sweetheart" deals if the utilities were allowed to own the new power suppliers, similar to the controversial deals between Meralco and Lopez-owned power generation firms.

Lopez argued that the matter was not actually Meralco's fault because, he claimed, Meralco was compelled to buy power from independent power producers.

Perez said that, while he agreed that allowing power utilities to choose their suppliers was a viable option, the utilities should ensure that all their deals go through competitive biddings.

Spooking investors

But Lopez warned that this option could only be workable if the government got its act together and addressed the uncertainty in the regulatory environment which, he said, was a main concern of foreign investors.

Lopez lambasted regulators for their myopia ("We need competent regulators at ERC who can quickly acquire a view of the forest"), lack of independence and their bias for consumers ("Consumers growing addicted to subsidies and profits demonized.").

He said threats of contract reviews and renegotiations, such as judicial, executive and legislative intervention in regulatory matters, had spooked lenders.

Lopez also pushed forward Meralco's weakened financial condition which, he said, had undermined its ability to fund capacity expansion. He noted that Meralco had suffered through eroding returns, shrinking capital investments and nine credit downgrades in the last four years.

Businessmen should work together with Meralco to push for the removal of cross subsidies given to residential consumers in order to ease the burden on industrial users, Lopez suggested.

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Lenten power supply ample, says Napocor

By Abigail L. Ho

THE STATE-RUN National Power Corp. has assured the public that there would be ample power supply during the Lenten break despite an expected surge in demand due to the five-day Holy Week vacation.

Data from the National Transmission Corp.'s (Transco) systems operations department showed that gross reserves in the Luzon grid would be around 2,061 megawatts (MW) per day from Holy Wednesday to Easter Sunday (April 7-11).

This means that after serving the total demand for the Luzon grid, there would still be enough back-up power to meet some spikes in demand in any of those five days.

The Visayas grid would maintain gross reserves of 405 MW per day, while the Mindanao grid would have average back-up electricity of 248 MW.

"Barring any unforeseen technical failures, NPC assured that there will be no brownouts during the Holy Week," the Napocor said in a statement yesterday.

Lowest demand on Good Friday

Historically, power demand on Good Friday is the lowest during the entire year, as power-intensive industries reduce their working hours or altogether stop their operations.

But with the five-day break from work during the Lenten season, demand was still expected to stay on track and even spike as vacationers troop to vacation spots all over the country.

Meantime, Transco recently launched certain components of the Leyte-Bohol interconnection project, which will provide the Visayas grid with an additional 260 kilometers of 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines as well as substation capacity.

The interconnection will start from the Ormoc Central Station to Ubay Substation in Northeastern Bohol via the Maasin Substation in Southern Leyte.

This aims to provide dependable power supply in Southern Leyte as well as transmit affordable and clean power from geothermal energy-endowed Leyte to Bohol.

"The existing 69-KV, single-circuit, woodpole-supported transmission lines in Southern Leyte are nearly saturated. Transco is stepping in to provide viable solutions with the installation of additional transmission lines and more substation capacity," Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said in a separate statement.

Bar topnotcher says he was born ...

From page A1

he would remember the mistakes he made "and my confidence would be shaken."

Anel was a consistent honor student since grade school. He was "accelerated" from elementary to high school and skipped Grade 7 at La Salle Greenhills. He finished fifth in his high school class in 1995.

'Carefree' college

Anel then took business economics at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, graduating cum laude. He said he enjoyed the freedom of his "carefree" college years.

"I really had fun when I was at UP. I was having the time of my life," he said.

That was to change when he took up law at the Ateneo.

"The culture is different in law school. You have to gradually give up your luxuries like gimmicks. You have to focus on your studies," Anel said.

He said he decided to go to the Jesuit-run Ateneo because its Rockwell campus was near his Makati home. He also wanted to know what a Jesuit education was like.

"It's very balanced. You have spiritual development. You learn that you can only do so much in terms of study and the rest will be up to God," he said.

"It's like bar exams. You can only do so much preparation and then, after you take the exam, it's no longer up to you ... It's up to Him. That's one of the things I learned," he said.

Dark horse

Anel said he graduated 14th in his batch and was considered a "dark horse" by his classmates.

"My friends were teasing me that I was the dark horse. My non-law school friends from La Salle and UP said that I would not only pass, I'd also make it to the top 10," Anel said.

This considerably boosted his confidence, making him actually imagine and hope that it would happen.

But Anel almost did not make it.

Tragedy struck when Lilia Diaz was ambushed on her way to work on Sept. 9, 2003. The bar exams had just started.

Anel was greatly affected by the murder but tried to control his grief.

"In fact, it came to a point that I considered I might stop taking the exams. Although not seriously ... I considered it as an option for a while," Anel said.

"The challenge there really was to keep my focus on the more important thing at hand. If there's anything I regret, it was that I could not grieve. Because [I thought] if I grieved too much, it could very well distract me," he said.

Favorite aunt

"She was my favorite aunt and I could claim that maybe I was her favorite nephew. So we were really close," he said.

On the day of the burial, Anel delivered the eulogy and apologized that he would not be able to accompany his aunt to her final resting place.

The burial was held on a Saturday afternoon. Anel was going to take the second round of tests the next day. From the necrological service, he went straight to a hotel to review.

Anel was watching the Mel Gibson movie "The Passion of the Christ" at Greenbelt 3 when he learned about the bar exam results on Friday.

He said he knew that the results were going to be released that day but did not want to think about it and busied himself with work. But he did attend a noontime Mass.

Right after the the movie ended at about 7 p.m., he looked at his cellular phone, which had been on silent mode, and saw that he had 77 missed calls.

"I realized that I must have passed since no one would call me if I didn't," he said.

Then he took a call from a classmate.

No. 1 by a point

"She was congratulating me and so I knew that I passed. Then she said 'you beat Harvey by one point,'" Anel said.

The friend was referring to the second placer, Harvery Lawrence Dychiao, who was also Anel's classmate at the Ateneo.

Anel cut in: "Wait, wait, what are you talking about?"

His friend replied: "My God, Anel, don't you know? You're No. 1!"

Thereupon, Anel started screaming. Other calls were coming in fast and he was happily talking out loud while walking very fast towards the parking lot. He wanted to go to the Supreme Court to look at the results.

"People were looking at me. I didn't care. I couldn't care less," he said.

Savor the moment

Anel said a colleague from the law firm also called him and told him to "savor the moment."

He plans to celebrate with friends after Holy Week, though he can't imagine how he can accommodate all of them.

Anel said he would continue working for Villaraza and Angangco, widely known as The Firm for being the personal lawyers of President Macapagal-Arroyo. He said the negative publicity was undeserved.

Anel said he wants to eventually head his own law firm.

"But at least in the short term, I'll stay with [the firm] unless they want me out ... I don't think so," he said, laughing.

Took up law for grandma

By Joselle d.R. Badilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MELISSA Romana Suarez of Davao City, who placed eighth, is a former international flight attendant who only went to law school four years ago to please her grandmother.

Suarez, a graduate of interdisciplinary studies at the Ateneo de Manila, returned to Davao City in 1997 to manage the family business.

"We had so many lawyers' fees. Everytime I would ask my *lola* to sign a check, she would complain about the expense. She told me, 'why don't you take up law,' said Suarez, who worked for Cathay Pacific for 11 years.

Suarez said she did not expect to pass.

"I really worked hard. I studied a lot, but after I took the bar I was a bit afraid because I felt that I did not do well in certain subjects," she said, adding that in the last exam, she was overcome by sleepiness.

On Friday, the day the results were released, Suarez went swimming to ease her tension.

Then she received a text message from Hildegardo Iñigo, the dean of the Ateneo de Davao Law school, telling her that she not only passed, she landed in 8th place.

She remembered that Iñigo had told her that she was too old to enter law school, recalling that an aunt of hers had stayed for only two weeks.

Diligent

But she persisted and asked to be given a chance.

"I was really diligent. When I woke up in the morning, the first thing I did was study," she said.

Her teacher in constitutional law, Vincent Paul Montejo, said he knew Suarez, whom he described as "good and studious," would land in the Top 10.

Iñigo said he also knew Suarez would top the exams as she was "very diligent."

But this new lawyer has no plans of working in Manila.

"I really don't care about the pay, even if they pay me a fortune but if I have to live there, no thank you. I love it here, I don't like that place," she said.

Ping's Senate bet woos 'ghost' voters in Bicol

From page A1

didate Sen. Panfilo Lacson, was campaigning in the center of town when he saw a group of people near the entrance of an establishment. He walked over, introduced himself, and started shaking hands with everybody.

He caught sight of coffins and realized too late that he was in the lobby of a funeral parlor. The unflappable Padilla just smiled and walked back to the street.

"He probably thought the funeral parlor was a shopping mall. When he saw the coffins, he stepped back," Lacson said of the incident, which was also witnessed by reporters covering the campaign.

"It shows he's very diligent in campaigning," Lacson told supporters and organizers of his campaign sortie in Albay during a dinner in his honor Friday evening.

In a previous sortie in Quezon province, Lacson said Padilla continued to speak using a public address system mounted at the back of a pickup truck, despite the absence of people on a long stretch of highway between town centers.

"The houses on the highway were few and far between," Lacson said.

"When (our motorcade) passed by a cemetery, Congressman Padilla started addressing the dead: 'You who are dead (and buried), please don't vote in the coming elections. Carlos Padilla might be defeated'," Lacson narrated and the audience laughed.

Self-deprecating humor

Padilla was referring to the time-honored election cheating strategy of ghost-voting wherein a live person uses a dead person's identity to vote.

The use of self-deprecating humor helps Padilla connect with voters. One joke he likes to tell, which is always a hit with crowds, goes like this: "When the campaign started, people told me I looked like my nephew, action star Robin Padilla. After a month campaigning under the sun, people tell me I look like (the late comedian) Dencio Padilla."

Robin is fair-complexioned while Dencio, who ironically enough often played FPJ's sidekick in the movies, was darker.

Still, Padilla promises a "no-nonsense" job if elected to the Senate.

Seriously now, Padilla said: "When I was in the Lower House, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. referred to me as the equivalent of 50 congressmen in floor debates. Now, I believe I can be the equivalent of 12 senatorial bets."

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

FBI warns of terror strikes in key US cities

WASHINGTON — Trains and buses in major US cities may be targeted this summer by terrorists using bombs hidden in bags or luggage, federal counterterrorism officials told law enforcement and transportation officials in a nationwide bulletin.

FBI and Homeland Security Department officials said they had received uncorroborated intelligence reports about a plot by terrorists to target commercial transportation systems. The bulletin, issued late Thursday, mentioned no specific cities or dates and did not elaborate on the source of the information.

A senior federal law enforcement official, speaking Friday on condition of anonymity, said the intelligence, coupled with the deadly March 11 commuter train attacks in Madrid in which bombs went off inside backpacks, has increased the level of wariness about a similar attack in the United States.

A spokesperson for the US passenger rail system, Amtrak, said the company stepped up security after the Madrid bombings, including use of bomb-sniffing dogs, although the company's trains have received no specific or credible threats.

"It should not be considered unusual that the FBI should issue this kind of a bulletin in the wake of what occurred in Madrid last month," Amtrak said in a statement.

Homeland Security spokesperson Brian Roehrkasse said information in the bulletin was being shared via the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System to ensure proper security measures are implemented around the country.

Officials said the message was sent mainly out of an abundance of caution, and the threat—deemed "somewhat credible" by one official—was not causing undue alarm throughout the government.

The nation's terror alert level remains at yellow, or elevated, the midpoint of the five-color scale. It was last raised to orange, or high, on Dec. 21 amid suspicions about terror attacks using commercial aircraft. The level returned to yellow on Jan. 10.

Passengers could see changes because of the bulletin. Federal officials are encouraging local transit authorities to conduct random passenger inspections and security sweeps of stations and to increase public announcements encouraging people to report unattended baggage or suspicious behavior.

It would be fair to say public transit systems are at "code yellow-plus," said Greg Hull, director of operations, safety and security for the American Public Transportation Association.

Lynn Brown, spokesperson for Greyhound Lines Inc., said at its Dallas headquarters that the bus company tells employees to be extra vigilant when such alerts are circulated. She said, however, that the sort of passenger inspection methods used by airports are impractical at the company's 3,600 locations, with 18,000 departures daily.

Intelligence indicates a plot might involve bombs made of ammonium nitrate fertilizer and diesel fuel, similar to the explosive concealed in a rental truck that blew up an Oklahoma City federal building in 1995. Both items are easily available around the United States.

These improvised bombs would then be concealed in luggage and carry-on bags, such as backpacks or duffel bags, and detonated either aboard buses or trains or in transportation stations, according to the government warning. A viable explosive could be concealed in luggage, it says. *AP*

US tightens visa rules on 27 nations

WASHINGTON—Citizens from 27 of America's closest allies, including Britain, Japan and Australia, will now be fingerprinted and photographed on arrival in the United States as part of a security crackdown, authorities announced on Friday.

The policy, to begin at airports and seaports by Sept. 30 and at the 50 busiest US land crossing by the end of the year, extends a program that started Jan. 5 under which everyone who comes to the United States on a visa—except diplomats—is fingerprinted and photographed on arrival.

US officials said the move was needed to prevent attacks like those of Sept. 11, 2001 and reflected the expectation that the 27 "Visa Waiver" nations will miss an Oct. 26 deadline to begin issuing passports with biometric data like fingerprints.

The Bush administration said it had asked the US Congress for a two-year extension to the deadline and said that its decision to fingerprint and photograph even the visitors who do not need visas was designed to close a loophole.

"We believe that an extension ... will avoid potential disruption to international travel and at the same time (requiring the fingerprints and photographs) will help mitigate the security concerns related to extending the deadline," US State Department spokesperson Adam Ereli told reporters. *Reuters*

US sets sanctions on Iran suppliers

WASHINGTON—The United States imposed sanctions on 13 companies and individuals from seven countries for supplying Iran with equipment and expertise used in making nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

The State Department said the penalties, imposed under the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000, apply to five Chinese, two Macedonian and two Russian companies as well as one firm each from Belarus, North Korea, Taiwan and the United Arab Emirates.

The sanctions were imposed because of "credible information" that the firms had transferred to Iran since 1999 equipment and technology that "have the potential of making a material contribution to WMD, or cruise or ballistic missile systems," deputy spokesperson Adam Ereli said. *AFP*

Spain finds bomb on high-speed rail, calls in army

MOCEJON—Spain sent in the army to guard its railways on Friday after finding a bomb under a high-speed track that contained explosives similar to those used in last month's Madrid train bombings.

Travel was disrupted as millions of Spaniards tried to set out for Holy Week Easter holidays. It reopened emotional wounds still raw from the suspected Islamist al Qaida bombings of March 11 that killed 191 people three days before a general election.

With the threat averted of a new carnage at the high point of Spain's Christian calendar, Interior Minister Angel Acebes said police would painstakingly check the 350 km/h Madrid-Seville line on which the bomb was found and then use helicopters and army vehicles to guard the line.

"A whole operation to reinforce security has been put in place, involving the armed forces, police, Civil Guard and security guards of (state railway firm) Renfe," Acebes said.

The 12 kg of dynamite, packed in a bag, was found in open country near the town of Mocejon, close to the central city of Toledo. It was defused safely. Investigators believe the bomb was planted on Friday and intended to derail a speeding train.

The possibility that the explosives, though not uncommon, may be of the same type used to blow up four commuter trains last month raised fears that the al Qaida-linked group believed to be behind the Madrid attacks could still be operational.

"The specialists say it could be the same as was used on March 11," Acebes said. He made no comment on who set the bomb.

Spain is holding 15 people, many of them Moroccan, over the Madrid attacks, which one Islamist group said were reprisals for Madrid's backing for the US invasion of Iraq. The Socialist party, upset winners of the election held in the wake of the bombings, plans to bring its 1,300 troops home from Iraq.

An attack on one of Europe's new-generation, high-speed trains travelling at full tilt could have had disastrous consequences. More than 100 people died in 1998 when a German ICE train similar to Spain's AVE express jumped the rails.

France foiled an attempt by suspected Algerian Islamists in 1995 to bomb its flagship Paris-Lyon TGV high-speed rail line.

Bomb scares have disrupted French trains, included the prestige Channel Tunnel line to London, since the Madrid train attacks.

Thousands of kilometers of track across country pose a major headache for security forces trying to protect them.

High-speed trains on the Seville line were halted after the discovery, leaving thousands of travellers stranded and angry at the start of one of the busiest travel periods of the year.

Millions of Spaniards will flood out of cities in the next few days for holidays leading up to the celebration of Roman Catholic Easter next Sunday, April 11. Reuters

Bin Laden inspired Bali bombings—JI members

KUALA LUMPUR—Admitting they were part of an Islamic terrorist group, four jailed Malaysians said Friday that a string of attacks against churches and other targets in Southeast Asia—including bombings in Bali that killed 202 people—was inspired by Osama bin Laden.

The claims, made in televised interviews, supported assertions that the Jemaah Islamiyah group is tied into al-Qaida. But comments by the suspects were denied by the accused leader of Jemaah Islamiyah and drew fire from human rights groups that warned the confessions may have been coerced.

Jemaah Islamiyah is thought to have been behind Christmas Eve church bombings in nine Indonesian cities in 2000 that killed 19 people, the nightclub blasts on the resort island of Bali and an August 2003 car bomb at a Jakarta hotel that killed 12 people.

Mohamed Nasir Abbas, one of the four men interviewed by Malaysia's TV3, said the bombings were inspired by religious edicts, known as fatwas, attributed to bin Laden.

"People who believed in the fatwa carried out bombings," Nasir said. "Therefore they bombed churches. The bombing in Bali was based on a policy to take revenge against America."

According to the edict, Muslims were told to kill "Americans wherever they are, irrespective of whether they are armed or not, whether they are soldiers or civilians or women, elderly people or children," Nasir said.

Another detainee, Amran Mansor, identified himself as a JI fund-raiser and said he had transported explosives to Pekan Baru, the site of one of the church bombings.

Nasir and the other three men interviewed said they received military training in Afghanistan. They now renounce Jemaah Islamiyah, they said, because it killed Muslims and other innocent people. *AP*

Americans vow revenge for killings

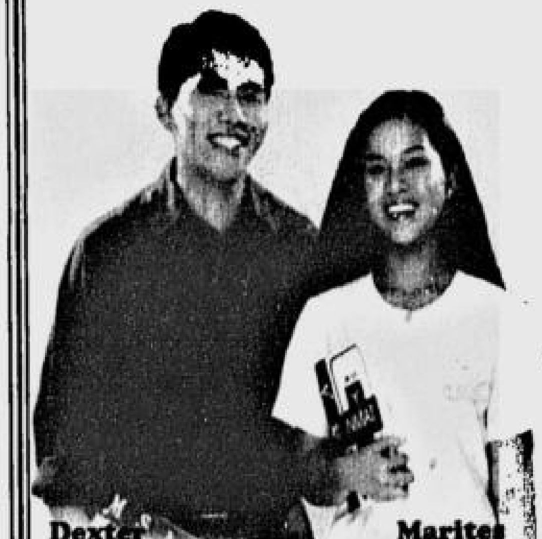
WASHINGTON—Top US officials plotted revenge Friday for the grisly killings of US civilians in the restive Iraqi city of Fallujah, as the deaths of two soldiers brought the US death toll to 600.

In a statement, the US military said one soldier from the 1st Armored Division had been killed and another wounded in a roadside bomb attack in the Al-Mansur district of Baghdad early Friday.

A US Marine died Thursday as "a result of enemy action" in the Al-Anbar province west of Baghdad, the statement added.

Those deaths brought the US toll to 600, 408 deaths from hostile fire and 192 non-combat deaths.

Top US officials vowed publicly to make perpetrators pay for killing four civilians as US media replayed images of two blackened bodies being mutilated and hung from a bridge in Fallujah. *AFP*



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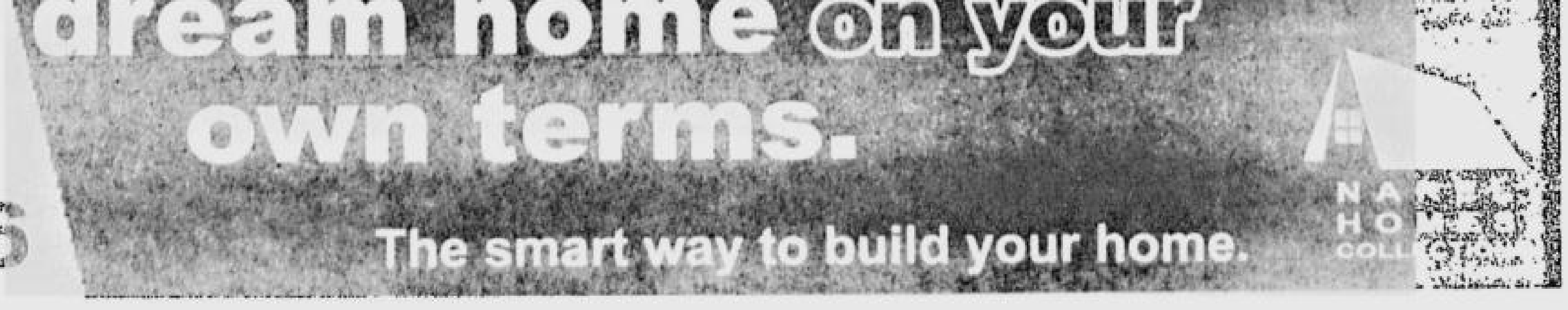
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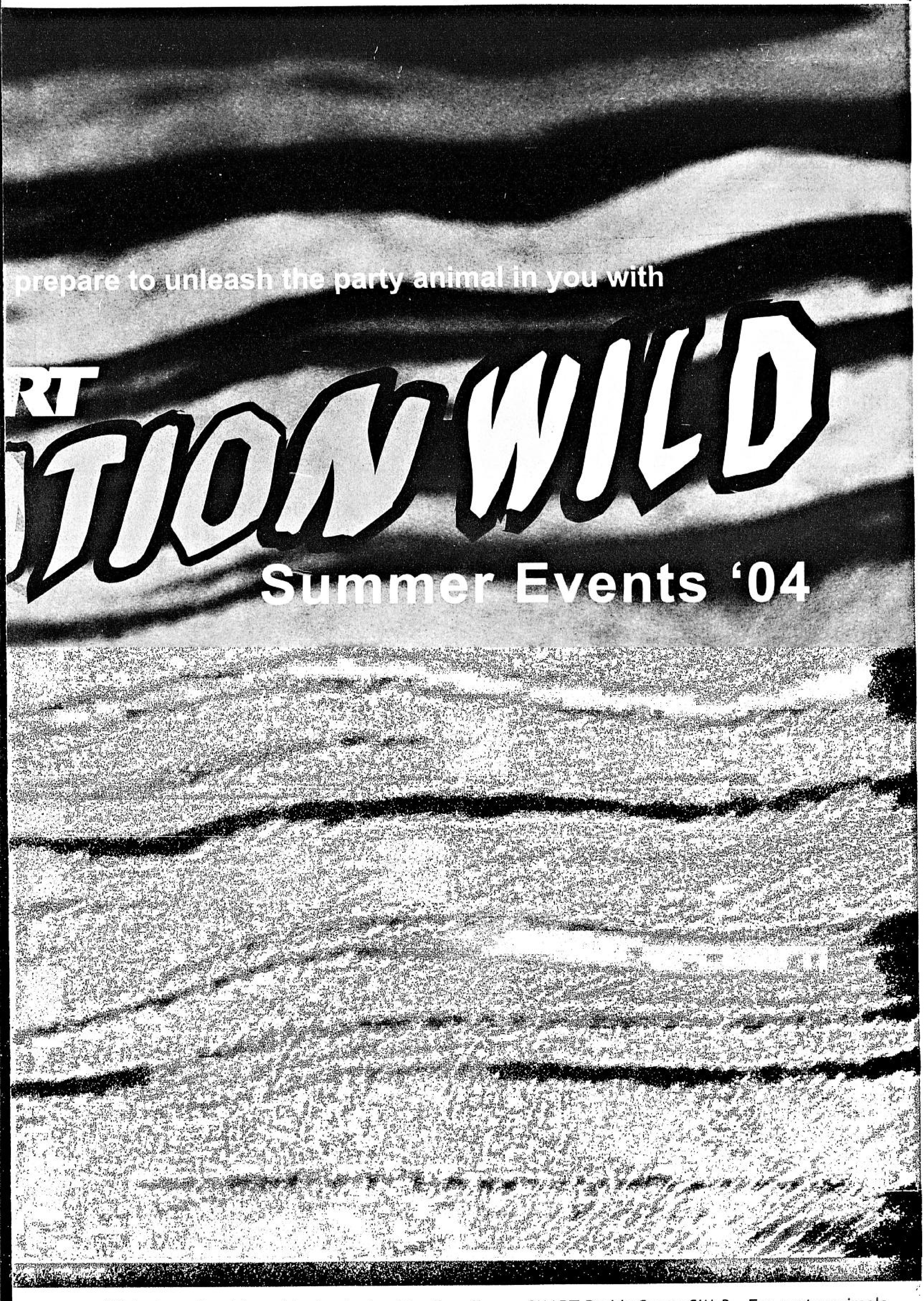

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EDITORIALS

Palm-off

NO DAY in the Roman Catholic calendar is as double-edged as Palm Sunday. On the one hand, it is a day of welcome; on the other, it is also a day of treachery and betrayal. As the multitudes met Christ waving palms and crying hosannas, sinister forces plotted behind him. Everything would turn sour. It is not a case of someone overstaying his welcome, but of someone who tests the substance of the hospitality accorded him. Alas, the warm reception he got was just a prelude to the enmity he would suffer at the hands of his enemies.

It is wrong to say, however, that the hospitality he got was spurious. Every one loves a superstar. We don't know if Christ had handlers to drum up his entry to Jerusalem, but the advance publicity he generated through his insightful teachings and fantastic miracles was enough to shame any Manila visit of the F4. Everyone who met him was a believer, a fan.

Palm Sunday is a cautionary tale on the rabid welcome accorded the candidates in the May election. Some of them are running on the prodding of their claque who either seek to enrich themselves or want them to fall flat on their faces—either way, their intention is to have a vicious good time at the candidates' expense. These candidates shake the hands of the people whose eager smiles may disguise the fact that they're giving him a shakedown. Come election time, these candidates wouldn't know what hit them. They would be nailed on the cross of their self-delusion.

Not that these candidates are messiahs. It may be that they are the ones who are giving the electorate a shakedown. Their political rhetoric largely consists of singing hosannas to the people. They promise to slave in the service of the people. Little do the people know that they are being taken for a ride. They have been pitched on the donkey's back by the mellifluous words of politicians. By falling for glib candidates, they make asses of themselves.

Our unsavory politics has committed a sacrilege of Lent. Instead of welcoming the Christ into our crooked hearts for repentance and atonement, we do so for a con job. The election season may yet palm off Palm Sunday.

Palm-Sunday Pinoys

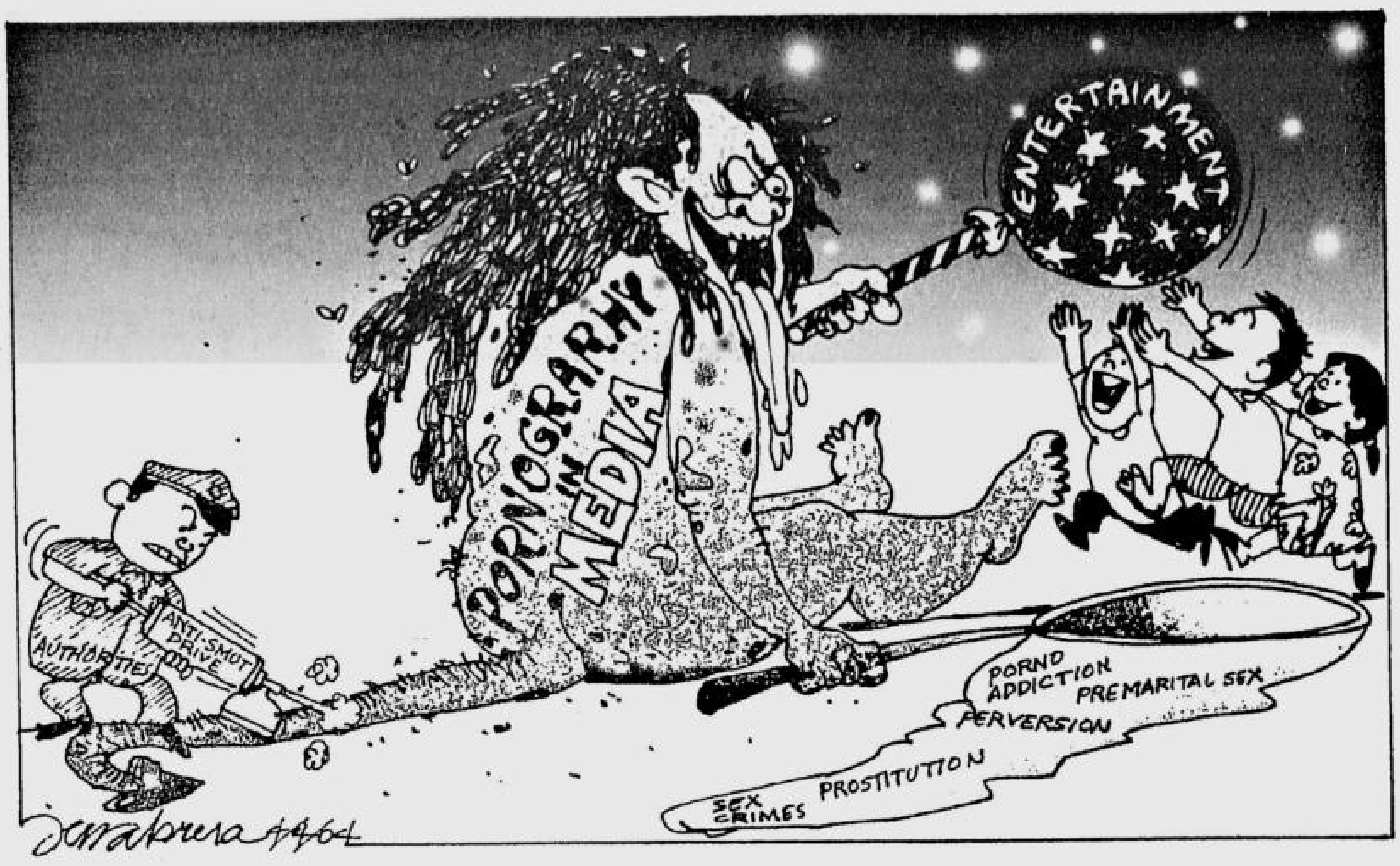
ANOTHER danger signal of our Palm-Sunday politics is its celebratory element that either betrays the frivolity of our democracy or hides our incapacity to confront fully the challenges of moral and social reformation that is the only ingredient to true nation-building.

We have had a lot of Palm Sundays as a people. Edsa I and II were religious and political pageants unique in the annals of the history of revolutions. Champagne corks were popped rather than guns fired in either Edsa. Confetti, rather than bullets, rained on the party-going revolutionaries. They who defied and toppled the government not only escaped unscathed; they got drunk and smashed.

But the same people who welcomed the restoration of democracy and the return of good government were the same people who betrayed the cause. The treachery might not have come insidiously, like a Mafioso who sadistically fattens a prey only to shoot him down when he's stuffed and swollen. Our treachery came through a steady stream of little lies, lame excuses and spineless acts. Averse to confrontation of any sort, we evaded the fact that while we might have pulled down a corrupt despot, we had replaced him with smaller versions of the same: little crooked we.

Perhaps because of our addiction to parties, we might have forgotten that nation-building entails sacrifices. Making democracy and government work means that we have to stick to an ethic that is part vision and part work, hard work. And that ethic does not allow for short cuts and deferrals of sacrifice.

Ah, but it is said we are a people who have sacrificed much; in fact, some say we are a nation of masochists. But despite the performativity of our fervent Catholic rituals, which conjure Christ's suffering for our psychological gratification, we seem to have missed out on the meaning of the Passion: that it is a means toward an end, that suffering is but a key to liberation, as the anchorites and saints know well. Our failure to build on the gains of our revolutions and make this nation work is because we refuse to sacrifice and do honest work. We are better at throwing parties than running government.



Intellectual snobbery?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

FOLLOWING are excerpts from a speech I delivered the other Thursday, March 25, before the Rotary Club of Manila, where I discussed the qualifications for election to public office. We had a lively open forum afterwards and I immensely enjoyed the exchange of not totally concurrent ideas.

"And then there is the question of competence. This has been brashly dismissed as an undemocratic criterion for public office.

"By and large, the persons who have served as President of the Philippines have received adequate education, some even post-graduate studies in reputable universities abroad. The supposed front-runner in the present campaign, however, cannot claim a similar endowment.

"It was bad enough that Erap mangled the English language although he was already in college when he stopped formal studies; it is worse that Fernando Poe Jr. dropped out as early as when he was only a high school sophomore and can hardly speak that widely used language except with grammatical lapses.

"(And why not, for God's sake, when my 9-year-old granddaughter, Cara, can even write poems in English? And my grandson Bala, who is only 8 years old, even uses idiomatic expressions.)

"Poe's apologists dismiss his language deficiency and say that, after all, leaders in other governments, as in China and Japan, do not speak English either. True, but it is not provided in their constitutions, as it is in ours, that 'for purposes of communication and instruction, the official languages of the Philippines are Filipino and, until otherwise provided by law, English.' (Art. XIV, Sec. 7)

"'English is in fact understood throughout the country and is more often used than Filipino in official publications. Most of our statutes and local ordinances, executive proclamations and orders, and judicial decisions are in English. The President's State of the Nation Address is in English. Even the credits in Filipino movies are, oddly enough, also in English, or hasn't Da King of Philippine Movies noticed?

"It is an inexplicable curiosity in our Constitution that all appointive government personnel except those performing manual work are required to possess a modicum of educational eligibility to qualify for public employment. Even ordinary clerks must pass civil service examinations in English as minimum proof of their competence.

"Yet, although even the Chief Justice must be a lawyer (after passing the bar examinations in English), with at least 15 years experience as a judge or as a practitioner, no educational qualification is required of the Senate President or the Speaker of the House of Representatives. They could be plain ignoramuses as long as they have the support of their also illiterate colleagues.

"The President if the Philippines may never have been inside a classroom and cannot even write his own name to sign a bill into a law, but he may validly sit in Malacañang as the highest official in the government.

"Requiring educational credentials for elective office may seem like intellectual snobbery, but it is a prudent requirement for the proper performance of important official duties. We can reasonably expect that the functions of the presidency can be better discharged by an educated person than by one who is academically deficient.

"The narrow-minded view has been advanced that many of our be-degreed leaders have disproved the promise of their credentials, so it is time to try someone who may be limited in learning but sincere in his desire to serve the people.

"Sincerity alone is no guaranty of dedicated service. It must be backed with the ability to carry into effect one's vision of a better government for all the people. It cannot be pursued by one whose intelligence, though presumably innate, is limited to the pupil's basic 3 Rs and probably does not include reading the 'Noli Me Tangere.'

"When one is afflicted with a serious heart disease, he does not go to an *arbularyo* for relief. He chooses a competent cardiologist. The expert cannot ensure total recovery, but the patient is in safer hands than when he consults a witch doctor...

"I dread the thought that by June 30 this year, we shall be living under a government headed by President Fernando Poe Jr. with Loren Legarda or Noli de Castro as vice president, Tito Sotto as executive secretary if not, God forbid, secretary of foreign affairs, and a Senate further cheapened by such B-picture actors as Bong Revilla, Lito Lapid and Jinggoy Estrada. In Parañaque City where I live, the mayor may be Alma Moreno, the estranged wife of Joey Marquez, who may be the next congressman of our district. These characters are all from the land of make-believe.

"Our history is being vulgarized by histrionics. Presumptuous candidates are trading on the mindless adulation of their fans to elevate them to elective positions, where they cannot function without director's cues to teach them how to act or idiot boards to tell them what to say.

"This is not mere paranoia but an actual threat to our Republic. If this happens—and it will if we take no action to prevent it—we will have only ourselves to blame for our failure, as responsible citizens, to rescue our misguided countrymen from the illusions of the tinsel world."

Holy Week Triple R

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

I WAS trying to look for something funny to start this column for Holy Week. But, try as I might, I could not find any. Why? Because there's nothing funny about a man who was condemned, tortured and killed by the very people He loved and whom He came to save.

* * *

Holy Week is a time when we have to call a spade a spade. No matter how we look at it, the passion and death of the Christ was an ugly, painful, violent death. It was the "goriest story ever told." The Holy Week should lead us to look at ourselves and the ugliness of our sins. All too often, we tend to make excuses and comfort ourselves with the thought that it's all right and proceed to rationalize and even spiritualize our sinfulness and go on sinning. Maybe it is because we have never really known, we have never really fathomed the brutal sufferings Christ underwent for us sinners.

* * *

"Relax, see a movie." Watch Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ." That's right. It's Holy Week, but go and see a movie. It is a movie that will move you. No less than Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales has written a pastoral letter urging us to watch this movie. "It is a powerfully moving re-telling of what took place in the last 12 hours of Jesus' life up to his death on the cross on Calvary." He puts forth two cautions: Don't bring younger children (under high school age) to see it because the violence might be too graphic for them; don't blame all the Jewish people for Christ's suffering and death. We also are a part of His suffering because of our sins.

* * *

Archbishop Rosales ends his pastoral letter with the hope that it will help us to experience and encounter Christ, and lead us to renewal. He even calls it a "Lenten good deed" to bring people to see the movie. So, find time to see this Triple R movie especially this Holy Week, a movie that will make you relax, reflect and renew.

* * *

More than seeing a movie this Holy Week, take time to look at the movie of your life itself. It is a beautiful time for you and for me to take a good hard look at who we are, what we have done and what we are doing the rest of our lives. In prayer and in silence, let us allow God to ask us again: *"Anak, kumusta ka na?"*

* * *

This is Holy Week, find time also to take a good hard look at life itself and the sufferings of people around us. More than the reel life suffering of Jesus, let us open our eyes again at the real life suffering of Jesus in His people. When was the last time you took away your focus from your own concerns, woes and miseries, and laid your eyes on people who are less fortunate than you are? The Holy Week is not the time to be comfortable, cozy and "devotional." It is precisely the time to be open and to be actively responsive to the stirrings of the divine in our hearts and in what is happening around us.

* * *

Aside from the Holy Week Triple R (Relax, Reflect, Renew), complete your Holy Week with another Triple R by sharing your rest, resources and reserves. In concrete, Caritas, the social action arm of the Archdiocese of Manila, is asking us again to share our time, our talents and our treasures to "the least, the last and the lost." Our love for God must overflow to our love for our neighbors in concrete deeds of love. Palm Sunday is Caritas Sunday. Give generously and help fund the church programs for the poor. Archbishop Rosales urges us "to give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (*Ano mang magaling, kahit maliit, basta't malimit, patungong langit.*) For particulars, please get in touch with Caritas (564-1831 to 36, 563-9311; Fax No.: 563-9309; e-mail: caritas@impact.net.

* * *

Let us not forget that charity begins at home. Let us use this opportune time to reach out to our loved ones and "mend our fences", so to say. Let us find time to say "Thank you, I'm sorry, I love you" once again to our loved ones. Especially, let us reach out to those who need healing, forgiveness and conversion. In particular, let us open our hearts again to those who are not easy to love. Yes, real love is never easy. That's precisely what Jesus did. He loved us, not the easy way.

* * *

Let the Holy Week be a time, too for Triple R for our country. As we prepare for the elections, let us be unbending in our resolve to *remove* bad leaders to *redeem* our country from poverty, and to *redirect* our nation toward true peace and prosperity.

Wishing you all a truly meaningful, blessed, and holy week.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, especially this Holy Week help me to relax, reflect and renew. Help me to share my rest, resources and reserves to others, too. And in the coming elections, help us to remove bad leaders, redeem our country from poverty and redirect our nation to true peace and prosperity. Amen.

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Where it all started

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

ADDRESSING the corps of cadets on the occasion of the centennial of West Point in 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt characterized the US Military Academy in the following words:

"Of all the institutions in this country, none is more absolutely American; none, in the proper sense of the word, more absolutely democratic than this. Here we care nothing for the boy's birthplace, nor his creed, nor his social standing; here we care nothing save for his worth as he is able to show it.

"Here you represent, with almost mathematical exactness, all the country geographically. You are drawn from every walk of life by a method of choice made to insure, and which in the great majority of cases does insure, that heed shall be paid to nothing save the boys' aptitude for the profession of arms. Here you come together as representatives of America in a higher and more peculiar sense than can possibly be true of any other institution in the land." ("Absolutely American" by Harold Lipsky.)

Looking back at my career in the Armed Forces, I have often wondered what brought me to choose the uniform of a soldier. Graduation from UP High in Diliman raised the fundamental question faced by many teenagers: What do I do with the rest of my life? I was never much of a soldier boy although history, military history in particular, was one of my favorites. Like many young men with no clear directions for the future, the academy represented an adventure into the relative unknown and with other classmates taking the Philippine Military Academy entrance exams, I felt there was nothing to lose. As the successful candidates gathered at Camp Allen in Baguio City and boarded a bus for Loakan, there was a lot of boisterous talk, even laughter. But as we approached the gates of Fort del Pilar, a silence seemed to engulf the group as we began to notice the uniforms and the men in dress white just ahead. Suddenly it dawned on everyone that our carefree lives were about to change completely.

In many ways, President Roosevelt's words about West Point also holds true for the PMA. The Academy doesn't care whether you are an Ilocano, a Tagalog, or a Visayan; it doesn't matter if you are Catholic, Protestant, Muslim or an atheist. Rich, middle class or poor, you partake of the same meals, wear the same uniforms, share the same accommodations, receive the same pay and allowances. There are no affluent or influential *padrinos* to make the bed softer or the food tastier. You won't make first captain or star man just because you are related to so-and-so and if you break the rules, you are punished with demerits which will ultimately affect your class standing, or are restricted to quarters. In the end, a cadet is awarded the presidential saber or the dubious distinction of being the class "goat" on the basis of his own merits and performance. Come to think of it, that is how we want our society to work.

Each cadet receives a monthly salary of P16,800, a pay scale in between that of a master sergeant and a second looey, possibly the highest paid scholar on the payroll of the Filipino taxpayer. This is in addition to free lodging, free uniforms including shoes, sweaters and raincoats, free light, water and transportation. Books and other academic needs come as part of the package. All in all, over P2 million is spent for every graduate. In return, you give up most if not all of the freedoms and liberties enjoyed by civilians. You don't question any order; you learn to obey. You wake up at six in the morning to the bugle call of reveille and climb into bed 16 hours later when the rules call for lights out in the barracks. You wear the correct uniform for any given activity and march in formation most of the time.

It is a thoroughly regimented existence and if you buck the system, you only make life miserable for yourself.

* * *

Graduation rites of the academy are the most publicized among the educational institutions of the land. Not even the elite schools and universities in Metro Manila merit the media attention focused on the PMA. But behind the glamour and glitz that often characterize the activities at Fort del Pilar, there is a dark side not often mentioned.

In a recent book "PMA Turning the Corner—A Look Underneath the Veneer" by Major General Rufo de Veyra, a former superintendent, he came out with three serious issues facing the PMA: bullying or what is commonly referred to as hazing, academic mediocrity and erosion of the honor system. These problems are ugly but unfortunately factual. If the institution is to continue its mission of providing future leaders for the Armed Forces, they must be addressed with determination and strength of purpose.

Let me just make one observation. In in a way, our wounds are self-inflicted. The rapid turnover of superintendents, some staying less than a year or barely over a year makes it difficult for anyone even with the best intentions, to vigorously address the concerns that plague the academy. For meaningful reforms to take root, there must be stability of command instead of revolving door politics. Fortunately the present superintendent, Major General Edilberto Adan, has been adopting measures in the right direction. He will need more time and the continuing support of his superiors to complete a work in progress.

(The columnist graduated from the Philippine Military Academy on April 4, 1956 and ended his military career 30 years later as Philippine Air Force commanding general.)

Wearing my wedding gown

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

GETTING ready for our Silver Wedding Anniversary, I dug out my wedding dress from the cedar chest I inherited from my mother. Because we use the chest as our coffee table, we rarely open it, and so had forgotten most of its contents. I thought I had stored my wedding outfit in a cardboard box, but when we lifted the lid of that beloved *baul*, there was no such box to be found. Instead, tucked in a corner was a plastic bag into which—horrors!—my wedding gown and my husband's barong had been stuffed. "Mom!" my daughter shrieked, "you stuffed your gown into a plastic bag?!" What can I say? Maybe I was too busy with our honeymoon!

My daughter, Miya, loved my gown, even if it was just a simple white sheath with spaghetti straps over which was another gown in a sheer fabric, designed and made by Danny Franco back when he wasn't such a big name in fashion. Miya tried on the under-gown, and, except for being tight in spots (such as her bosom), it fitted her perfectly. "Mom, can I wear this to my graduation?" she inquired, and what mother could resist such a plea?

We had to have the gown altered by our family friend and favorite dressmaker Minette Reyes Santiago, and because Miya's school requires "Filipiniana-inspired" outfits for the graduates, Minette made the most exquisite white beaded *kimona* to wear over it. I wondered why Miya wanted to wear my old gown when she could have had an entirely new outfit made. "For sentimental reasons," she smiled. "But if you really wanted to go sentimental," I said, "then you should wear my gown at your wedding." "Ay, I have a design already in my mind for my wedding gown, *eh*," she retorted. Apparently, there are limits even to sentiment…

* * *

STILL, sentiment sneaked in unbidden as her father and I watched Miya, wearing my wedding gown, march down Club Filipino's Kalayaan Hall at the start of the graduation ceremonies of Community of Learners, the small, non-traditional school to which we had entrusted our two children and from which, with Miya's graduation, even we were now "graduating."

It's been CL tradition to invite as commencement speakers, not public figures who know hardly anything about the school or the graduates, but parents and students who certainly know what life is like in the school, and what life lessons the graduates have learned or will have to learn.

One of those lessons is the value of a caring learning environment, as attested by Sheel Gabrielle Lamar, one of the speakers on behalf of the elementary graduates. Diagnosed with cancer during the school year, Sheel said she made it to the occasion only with the help of understanding teachers and classmates, who would help with her lessons and projects when the load proved too heavy for her, especially after her "chemo" sessions.

The parent speakers—Ed and Betty Trono for the grade school graduates and Ed and Annie Santoalla for the high school seniors—spoke as well of the unique environment that CL provided, becoming a "second family" where everyone was a partner in the education and formation of the children sheltering in it. Ed and Annie, whose daughter Soleil was a schoolbus mate and close friend of Miya's, spoke of Soleil's stubborn loyalty to the school, even when they moved to Antipolo and contemplated transferring her to a more convenient campus.

* * *

"HOW do we define community?" asked Feny delos Angeles-Bautista, director of Community of Learners. She had been approached many times in the past, Teacher Feny said, about "franchising" CL, which is celebrating its 20th year (already?). But she always turned down such queries, she said, because "we are not a fast food." While she had no qualms about sharing the school's philosophy and non-traditional approach, she said, "sharing is not packaging. Our identity is defined by the students, the parents, the entire CL family. It is not just a physical space, but the strength of our connections."

The decision "to remain a certain size" is deliberate, Feny added, as findings have since validated their belief that children do better in a small, intimate, personal learning environment. There is validation, as well, in the fact that numerous CL alumni have returned to the school to teach, and have proven to be excellent teachers.

Teacher Feny interrupted her talk to present a video shot, edited by seniors Malay Javier, Mikey Red and Alfred Belleza to the soundtrack of "One Hundred Years" by Five for Fighting. Amid shots of typical classroom scenes and individual cameos, a fleeting "album" of a year's worth of memories, the soundtrack sang of being "15 for a moment," a brief stop in time when "you live a hundred years."

It was the most moving moment of the afternoon for me, for indeed, Miya and the other graduates would be just "15—or rather, 17 or 18—for a moment." They will never be so young or hopeful or optimistic again. They were, indeed, graduating not just from high school but from adolescence as well.

* * *

BUT as Miya, together with fellow graduate Tristan Patrick Ligot, said in their message: "In every road or step that we come across there is another road that connects our paths. We create our own tomorrow in what we dream. But life is not just about catching your dreams; it is about stepping forward and making the best of it. So, Batch 2004 and under, step forward. Everything that started '*sa isang pangarap*' (in a dream) has come true. And the best is yet to come."

Our daughter, born amid the euphoria of the first "People Power" revolt 18 years ago, walked down the length of Kalayaan Hall that afternoon and left high school behind. She made one of the most momentous journeys of her young life, and she chose to make it wearing my wedding gown.

Faith and patience in Batanes

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

I AM writing this column from a terrace facing the sea in Basco while waiting for the return flight to Manila. Behind me are wind-swept mountains rising majestically from the sea, rolling hills and verdant valleys dotted with grazing animals, and ribbons of roads without vehicles.

A few days ago, I told my wife Karina, who has come to these northernmost islands on an official mission, "Well, we finally got here; the problem is whether we will make it back to Manila." I had prepared for an open-ended holiday, packing enough clothes and bringing enough books to cover the contingency of being stranded in an island known for its unpredictable weather.

We had tried to go in late February, waking up early for the twice-a-week Asian Spirit flight to Basco. Though the skies were clear over Metro Manila, the flight was canceled because of the weather over Cagayan. This is not unusual. The Batan islands are cut off from the rest of the country by strong winds that make both air and water channels linking Batanes to the rest of the archipelago impassable for about eight months of the year.

I don't like traveling with no assurance of leaving, and so I wasn't sure I wanted to make another attempt. But Karina has the kind of patience that grows with years of working in government. Without second thoughts, she re-booked our flights and accommodations, and urged me not to unpack the bag I was bringing to Batanes. "If we're going to Batanes," she said wisely, "we have to let the weather decide for us."

The skies over Basco were starting to fill with threatening clouds when we landed. Elsewhere in the country it is summer. But not in Batanes, where you can wake up to a sunny and crispy December-like morning, bake in the coastal humidity and heat of a tropical sun in the afternoon, and retire in the evening with a baby typhoon banging at your door and windows. Provided one has patience and a lot of faith, a visit to these isolated islands and the beautiful Ivatans, all 16,000 of them, is a most rewarding experience.

The terrain is stunning. I have never seen anything so picturesque. While Karina was giving talks to public officials as the first chair of the Civil Service Commission to visit these parts, I toured the capital town of Basco on a borrowed motorcycle—the best way I think to see any island. Everywhere I went I was treated to a landscape washed on one side by the South China Sea and on the other by the Pacific Ocean. On the advice of Butch Abad, the province's three-term congressman, I followed the national road circling the Batan coast and ventured into the little alleys leading up to the interior valleys. In a few minutes I found myself looking down at gently sloping communal pasturelands as well trimmed as the best kept golf courses.

Itbayat, the largest of the islands and the most isolated, is also the most pristinely pastoral. One can cross the channel by boat from Basco port, in four hours, if the sea is calm. Or buy a ticket in an 8-seater plane and make the crossing in 12 minutes. The trip to Itbayat is worth the effort and the anxiety of flying in small planes. The land is of red clay. Limestone cliffs rise sharply from the sea; there are no beaches in this island. The road from the unpaved airstrip to the center of town bobs up and down like an endless motocross track.

A beautiful church with thick limestone walls dominates the town plaza. To this day, a Spanish Dominican missionary, Fr. Domingo Deniz, who came to Itbayat in 1967, serves the parish. Still sprightly at 70, the bearded Father Deniz showed me the church and its historic belfry and regaled me with stories of faith and survival in a frontier land. The Catholic Church retains a commanding presence in these islands.

We spent a day in Sabtang island, 20 minutes by ferryboat from the port of Ivana in Batan. A small but imposing white-painted church built in 1844 is the focal point of the Sabtang plaza. All the roads radiate from it. Sabtang's villages are the most picturesque in all of Batanes. This fishing town has the most number of traditional Ivatan houses built with rocks bound together by limestone paste. In the name of preserving such homes and the culture that nourished these over centuries, Batanes has applied for inclusion in the Unesco World Heritage List.

The Batanes economy is highly dependent on government, which employs more than 60 percent of the labor force. At the moment there isn't much around here to prevent well-educated young Ivatans from migrating. Though the provincial government operates the well-run Batanes Resort, tourist facilities are not adequate for the volume of arrivals it seeks to attract. Yet, it is precisely this unspoiled character of the place that gives it its charm and intrinsic friendliness. I began to wonder how long it would take before investors from Taiwan, less than 200 kilometers away, colonize these islands and convert them into a paradise for golfers and casino players.

"Here is a textbook development dilemma if there is one," Dina Abad tells me. She is running for the lone congressional seat held by husband Butch. Dina was until recently the dean of Ateneo's School of Government. She understands the perils of being excluded from the circuits of growth in a globalized world. But she also knows what it means to balance the need for economic growth against the other things that matter to people—local control of the pace and direction of development, preservation of heritage, ecological sustainability. It is heartening to see people like Dina give new meaning to governance in a province as unique and as precious as Batanes.

* * *

Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

Rolling back the green wave

EYE ON ASIA

Karim Raslan

IN THE RECENT March 21st general elections, Malaysia demonstrated that the "green wave"—the tide of political Islam that seems to be engulfing the Muslim world—can be stopped democratically.

In a stunning nationwide reversal, the party, which is led by *ullamas* or religious scholars, lost one of the two state governments it controlled, as well as 75 percent of the parliamentary seats it had secured in the previous 1999 polls.

At the same time, Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi's ruling Barisan Nasional coalition—a multiracial grouping of political parties, led by the progressive Malay/Muslim party the United Malays National Organisation—increased its share of the national vote from 56.48 percent to 63.81 percent.

The surprising victory in Malaysia offers six vital lesson for policymakers who are concerned about developments across the Islamic world.

For Indonesia—the world's largest Muslim nation, which is going to the polls on April 5—the turnaround in Malaysia could well have substantial impact on the momentum currently being enjoyed by the country's Islamicist parties.

Azyumadi Azra, the rector of the State Islamic University, the country's leading religious seminary, argues: "Many of the country's leading ultra-conservative Muslim parties have looked to Pas both for inspiration and for guidance. Their defeat will come as a major psychological blow."

Firstly, there is a growing realization that the division of mosque and state, a legacy of the Enlightenment, is unworkable in the Islamic world.

Policymakers must come to terms with the fact that democratization in the Islamic world will not lead to westernization. Muslims demand a holistic view of life, with Islam as the guiding force and leaders in these societies must respond to popular sentiment by engaging in Islamic issues in a manner that marries deeply held religious concerns with contemporary socio-political and economic demands.

Second, the Malaysian premier's success demonstrates that political leaders in dominantly Muslim nations cannot shy away from debates on Islamic issues since such debates can and will extend far beyond matters of personal faith and ritual.

As such aspiring leaders must acquire an extensive knowledge of their faith and its underlying history and philosophy. Such leaders have to possess the courage to promote and argue for a progressive religious ethos—one that is consistent with economic development, democracy and civil society issues such as gender and minority rights.

In this respect, Badawi has also encouraged liberally inclined scholars to engage in religious discourse, thereby balancing out the obscurantism of Middle East-trained clerics who have sought to preserve their monopoly on the interpretation of the Holy Koran.

Third, non-Arabic speaking Muslim societies, such as Bangladesh, Indonesia and Pakistan, must resist the rampant "Arabization" of their cultures.

In this context, Badawi's administration has deliberately promoted traditional Malay arts and culture—thereby acknowledging the country's heterodox Hindu, Buddhist and specifically Southeast Asian roots.

Interestingly, Badawi's espousal of often overlooked Malay social and personal values, such as tolerance, gentlemanliness and self-control, struck a vital chord in the country, contributing in large part to his electoral victory.

Fourth, Muslims demand justice and fairness. A government's legitimacy will be judged by its ability to conduct free and fair elections, maintain law and order and manage civil society issues. As Muslims gain greater personal freedoms, they will want to exercise these freedoms.

Instances of injustice will undermine the credibility and legitimacy of an administration, as Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Badawi's outspoken predecessor, discovered in 1998 with his treatment of former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

Fifth, American policymakers must come to terms with the fact that close proximity to Washington will undermine the credibility of any democratically elected Muslim leader.

The unfairness and injustice of the United States' continuing sponsorship and support of Israeli aggression—i.e., the extra-judicial killing of Hamas' Sheik Ahmad Yassin—are absolutely unacceptable to the vast majority of Muslims.

Finally, modern governments have to stamp out rent-seeking and corruption that have become the hallmark of contemporary Muslim business world. Greater transparency and accountability in corporate life and governance are absolutely vital. At the same time, it is important to ensure that the weakest sections of the community—often in the countryside—are not left behind.

To this end, the Malaysia administration has crafted populist policies directed at the much neglected Malay/Muslim rural sector, while also endeavoring to stamp out corruption.

Moreover, governments that advocate a contemporary Islamic world-view have to ensure that economic growth is equitable and sustainable. It should be remembered that a great deal of the animus against free-market, liberal democracy arises from the failure of such systems to deliver real economic benefits to the ordinary man.

THEY SAID

Vital ingredient

"Everything boils down to leadership. If you have a leader who can inspire the nation through policy and action, anything is possible."
—Makati Business Club chair Ricardo Romulo

Greatest tragedy

"She is the greatest tragedy since Pinatubo."
—PRO-FPJ-Citizens Rebuilding Our Nation spokesperson Ed Araullo on President Macapagal-Arroyo

Been there, done that

"I doubt if there are many problems I had not met before either as a lawyer, congressman or senator."
—Presidential candidateRaul Roco

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

Aquino: I'm the intelligent choice

IT used to be that presidential candidates tap running mates from another island group. Thus, if the presidential aspirant is from Luzon, he will get a vice presidential candidate from either the Visayas or Mindanao. The idea is for the presidential candidate to get the support of the running mate's bailiwick.

Strategists of certain candidates in the two previous presidential elections subscribed to this idea. Fidel Ramos of Pangasinan chose Lito Osmeña of Cebu as his running mate in 1992, while Ramon Mitra of Palawan joined forces with Marcelo Fernan of Cebu. In 1998, Raul Roco of Camarines Sur chose Irene Santiago of Davao as his running mate.

In the 2004 elections, this equation has been thrown out the window. All the five presidential candidates and the three vice presidential aspirants hail from Luzon—Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is from Central Luzon while her running mate Noli de Castro is from Southern Tagalog; Fernando Poe is from Metro Manila and so is his running mate Loren Legarda; Roco is from the Bicol region and Hermie Aquino is from Central Luzon.

Presidential candidates Panfilo Lacson and Eddie Villanueva have no running mates.

As part of the INQUIRER's citizen-based coverage of the elections, we are featuring today the stand of Aquino on issues. Talk of the Town featured De Castro on April 1 and Legarda on March 28.

I stand on my qualifications

By Hermie Aquino
Vice Presidential candidate
Alyansa ng Pag-asa

Banking on my personal record and experience, I am offering an intelligent choice for vice president.

I am now being dubbed "*ang* VP *na may* K"—*karanasan, kakayahan, karunungan, kahusayan at katapatan.*

I stand on my own qualifications and I am not beholden to anyone.

As part of Raul Roco's Alyansa ng Pag-asa, I follow the Agenda of Hope, which calls for Honest government, Opportunity for all, special privileges for none, Peace, Productivity, Prosperity, Education and Environment for sustainable development.

Subscribing to the Aksyon Demokratiko principle that people are more important than institutions, I focus my platform on Filipinos and how programs and policies can best benefit them. This platform of governance puts special emphasis on housing and energy, areas where I have the most experience.

Unemployment

The main objective is a healthy economy, which should be able to address unemployment and arrest the brain drain. People are our wealth. I aim to provide and create jobs to as many people as possible but education and proper training must be emphasized.

Investors, local and foreign, must be encouraged. Incentives must be properly placed. A healthy and competitive economic environment must be provided and the security problem must be properly addressed.

Poverty

The key to our poverty problem is the establishment of a credible and honest government, sincere in its commitment to provide livelihood for the people. Improve the standard of living and provide people with opportunities for self-improvement.

Free education and the provision of an environment that will ensure full employment must likewise be encouraged.

Debt, deficit

A credible, respected and honest government will give us the moral authority to negotiate in restructuring debts with creditors. Likewise, debt-swap arrangements should be pursued. With regard to the budget deficit, there must be more efficient tax collection and we must clamp down on corruption.

Globalization

Globalization is a reality that cannot be ignored. As stated in our Agenda of Hope, we should continue to actively participate in rules-based, member-driven organizations such as the World Trade Organization, keeping in mind the pursuit of a more equitable and fairer global trading system for developing countries. But we must make certain that safety measures are properly placed in order to protect our local markets and enable them to compete in the global market.

Corruption

This is a problem that may be hard but not impossible to address. There must be transparency in public office, strict auditing procedures and appointment only of people of known integrity and probity. Foremost is leadership by example. But as a rule, there must be zero-tolerance for corruption.

Pork barrel

The projects to which pork barrel goes may be necessary but there is a need for more transparency and accountability in the project selection and use of funds. The people need to know where their money is being spent. The legislative branch shall allocate the funds while the executive implements the projects.

Power rates

As chair of the committee on energy while I was in the House of Representatives, and as author of the bill creating the Department of Energy, I am deeply affected by the way the energy issue is being handled.

The high cost of energy must be properly addressed to ensure transparent and reasonable prices of all forms of energy through the establishment of an efficient competitive energy market. Toward this end, the government shall expedite the establishment of the wholesale electricity spot market and continue to renegotiate existing power purchase agreements with the independent power producers to ensure that such agreements are not only legal and financially sound but also advantageous to the electric consumers.

We must make the energy market more efficient in order to reduce the cost of electricity. Likewise, we must lessen the country's reliance on imported fossil fuel as an energy source and take advantage of indigenous energy sources.

We must also implement the following:

- Ensure transparency of the review and renegotiation of IPP contracts.
- Push for the passage of the Transco Franchise Bill and sell the generation assets.
- Push for the passage of a Renewable Energy Law that will integrate and implement policy and regulatory reforms to encourage the development of the market for renewable energy.
- Provide incentives to micro-hydro and solar technologies and promote them as an electrification option for barangays.
- Review the tax structure for energy to protect the interest of the investors, both current and prospective, and the consumers.

Food security

Increase food production, encourage, strengthen and give incentives to agriculture and fishing, provide competitive market, improve farm-to-market roads and other facilities and regulate importation.

Earnest efforts must be made to distribute land to the tiller.

Environment

Optimize the use of the environment and at the same time protect it for future generations.

Charter change

The Constitution, while enshrining our fundamental laws must not be so rigid as to fail to address our present needs. There may be provisions that need to be changed.

However, any change in the Charter must be coursed through a duly elected constitutional convention and whatever that body decides, for so long as ratified by the Filipino people, should form part of the Constitution.

Death penalty

We are against death penalty because the purpose of imprisonment is to rehabilitate criminals and to make them better citizens. By implementing the death penalty, this objective will not be served. Statistics show that the prospect of being meted out the death penalty does not put a stop or minimize criminality.

Erap pardon

Deposed President Joseph Estrada must be given a fair trial and the opportunity to be heard and defend himself.

People power

The Constitution is clear that "the Philippines is a democratic and a republican State. Sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them."

The essence of democracy is people empowerment. The mandate of the government must come from the people. Their right of speech, of expression and to peaceably assemble in order to air their grievances must be respected and should not be curtailed.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ
PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

Marcos ill-gotten wealth

All ill-gotten wealth, regardless of source—whether from the Marcoses or from any other person or family—must be returned to the people. But we have to wait for the decision of the court regarding these assets.

Insurgency

We aim to keep the peace table open while adhering to the principle that Mindanao must be led by Mindanaoans.

Important also is the establishment of a government that is respected and recognized by the people. A government that has firm principles. A government that properly addresses the problems of the people especially with respect to security.

Terrorism

Terrorism is a "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience." It is neither random, spontaneous, nor blind; it is a deliberate use of violence against civilians for political or religious ends.

Violence has no place in any organized community. I am against any form of terrorism. The community of nations must be one in fighting this threat.

Foreign policy

The Philippines is an active member of the family of nations whose ties are based on mutually beneficial and fair relations under an international rule of law. As such, we must continue with our ties not only with the United States and China but also with the whole of the Asean nations, Japan, South Korea, and countries of the Pacific Rim, the European Union, countries of South Asia and Latin America.

Supreme Court and economic issues

By virtue of the doctrine of separation of powers in the government, we recognize the independence of the judiciary.

Its primary role is to interpret whether the law has been followed. They have the power of judicial review. The Supreme Court should, however, recognize the line between business and the law and should be careful about stepping into executive prerogative.

Jueteng

The government has provided legal forms of gambling. *Jueteng* is not one of them. *Jueteng*, thus, is illegal and must not be encouraged.

While *jueteng* as a form of gambling is against the law, I look at it as symptomatic of a social problem. We have to get to the bottom of things, look at the root cause and examine why it has become a part and parcel of our society. If legalized, there must be appropriate regulatory measures.

Population

To date, the Philippines is one of the most overpopulated countries. Family planning is not about flooding the market with contraceptives. It also entails an education process to bring about changes in attitude. There must be a principled cooperation between and among the different sectors of our society, including the Church.

Filipino couples must be informed, encouraged and given the choice of contraception or family planning methods acceptable to them and consistent with their personal and religious convictions.

Divorce

The Constitution is clear that the State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic social institution.

Abortion

I am against abortion. I uphold the constitutional protection given to the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. Our young men and women must be taught responsibility.

Housing

As former minister of Human Settlements and the first chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), I aim to provide decent but affordable housing for the population, particularly the lower classes.

Housing and urban blight are part of the larger problems of poverty and unemployment. But this problem must be addressed immediately.

The housing program must confront the more urgent aspect of social housing, which addresses the tragic shortcomings of the past, and the more productive aspect of economic housing, which contributes to the future development of the economy.

The social housing problem can be seen in the thousands of squatter communities in urban areas. Possibly 30 to 40 percent of urban dwellers are squatters. But we should go beyond token solutions like the well-meaning but small-scale Habitat for Humanity.

Learning from the many failures and small successes of the past, the Social Housing Problem Program should be based on the following: The most critical component is land, which is reasonably close to sources of livelihood. We should focus on whole communities of squatters. Because of the scale of the problem, we should only accept programs with high cost-benefit ratios.

We must provide incentives for local government units, civic organizations, locally based NGOs to solve slum community problems. We can tap unutilized land of the national government, many of which are squatted upon, as models for land-sharing schemes, which may be copied by the private sector. Cheap modes of transportation, e.g. rail or water, to link relocation sites to livelihood centers must also be developed.

A few programs of the past have addressed these issues albeit in very limited fashion. The Community Mortgage Program (CMP), initiated during my stint at the HUDCC, should be continued and expanded. Local government initiatives arising from the CMP, particularly those in the cities of Naga and Cebu, should be encouraged.

The Program for Economic Housing should focus on how to dramatically expand private sector participation in all aspects of mass housing: residential land development, house construction and mortgage financing. This should be done to remove bottlenecks.

Some examples of this approach are the following:

- Increasing the supply of land for affordable housing can be done by giving tax breaks to landowners who develop land for economic housing and/or by imposing an "idle land tax" for non-development.
- Banks should be encouraged to increase their portfolios of affordable mortgages by allowing a reasonable portion of these as risk-free assets or as allowable reserves. Government financial institutions should encourage and support private banks (e.g. a liquidity mechanism) rather than undertaking direct below-market rate mortgage lending.
- All national and local government permits and licenses required for the development, sale and title issuance of a house and lot must be simplified. The developer should only go to one entity, perhaps the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, which will then, for a fee, secure all the many other permits and licenses required.
- Measures should be undertaken to minimize construction materials wastage and increase labor productivity. Among these are: a) standardize sizes of house components like doors, windows, jambs, fixtures; b) provide incentives for use of new technology minimizing materials and labor inputs for mass housing; and, c) encourage use of locally available materials and technology.

Education

"Bawat Graduate: Bayani at marangal" is our guiding vision for Philippine education. We will pursue the goal of a graduate in every home. College education must be for free. It is our mission to nurture a society of literate women, men and children.

We must improve teacher training, distance and continuing education and the quality of the nation's graduates.

A priority will be the promotion of cultural literacy among Filipinos and the development of the indigenous culture.

Prostitution

Legalizing prostitution is admitting failure. Prostitution is basically about lack of economic opportunities, but if provided with the right atmosphere, this social problem can be minimized, if not totally eradicated.

Gay rights

Gays, like any citizen, have rights that must be respected. They must be recognized as beneficial citizens of our nation. They can be as productive as any man or woman. In fact, many have excelled in their various fields of expertise. The likes of Rene Salud, Ricky Reyes, Inno Sotto and others have made us proud.

They must be provided with an environment where they can maximize their potentials as individuals and as a group.

Malnutrition

People are our wealth. The health of the Filipino people is a cornerstone in accomplishing this mission. We believe that health is not the absence of disease but the presence of a state of well-being. We must institute a health program that is sustainable and responsive to the needs of our people.

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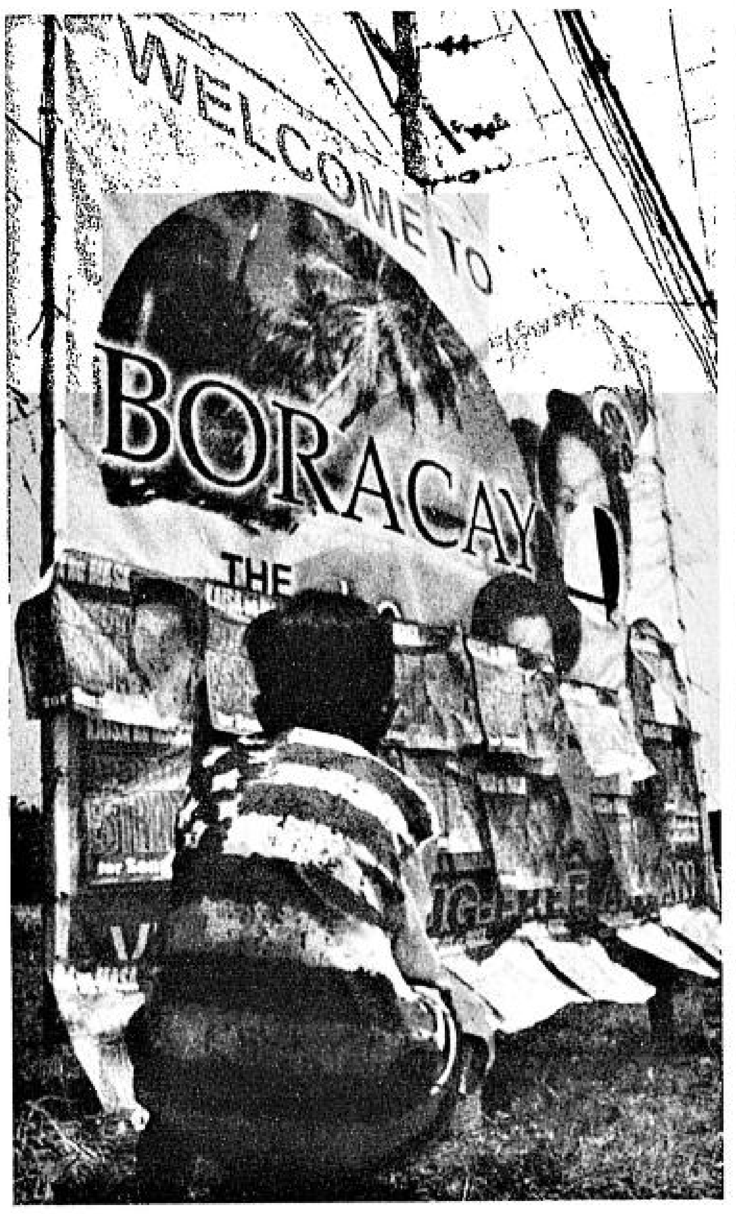


CAMPAIGN CASUALTY EDWIN BACASMAS
A streamer near the airport in Kalibo, Aklan welcoming visitors to Boracay suffers at the hands of vandals whose target apparently was the face of President Macapagal-Arroyo prominently painted on the streamer.

Mayor who took over slain predecessor himself killed

THE MAYOR of Tarangnan, Samar was gunned down Saturday afternoon in downtown Catbalogan, the capital town of Samar, a few days after he assumed office to replace his predecessor who was earlier murdered.

The slaying of Francisco Montero, 54, came 35 days after the mayor of the same town, Aniceto Olaje, was shot dead in Calbayog City.

Eight other persons were killed in three separate election-related violence in Batangas and Laguna provinces yesterday.

Montero took over the post left by Olaje. Montero and Olaje belong to opposing political camps.

Montero, who was running for mayor, died instantly from a single shot fired by a gunman who was riding with another man in a motorcycle near the corner of Rizal Avenue and San Bartolome Street in the commercial district of Catbalogan at around 2:30 p.m. yesterday.

SPO3 Siegfred Obong, Catbalogan police investigator, said the assailants, who were wearing crash helmets, remain unidentified.

Obong said the police were looking into politics as one of the possible motives in the killing of Montero.

Batangas

In Batangas City, six persons supporting Mayor Eduardo Dimacuha were found dead yesterday, a day after houses of the mayor's relatives and supporters were raided.

Businessman Geronimo Exconde, 37, of Barangay Sta. Clara, this city, was found dead with three of his bodyguards and a male assistant about 30 meters below a bridge in Barangay Sabang, Ibaan town at 6 a.m.

Police identified the bodyguards as Eduardo Gonda, 48; Freddie Dimayuga, 28; both from Oriental Mindoro, and Roy Donquinis, 25 of Davao; and his assistant Noel Isar, 17, of Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro.

The five bodies were found with their heads covered with masking tape and their hands tied behind their backs.

They also bore more than 15 stab wounds in the chest and back.

The victims were abducted at around 8:30 p.m. Friday.

Exconde's home was among the houses of Dimacuha's supporters that Mimaropa police raided before the bodies were found.

Police said around 30 armed men wearing bonnets, some in short pants and slippers, attacked Exconde's home at around 8:30 p.m.

The men took P3 million in cash from Exconde's vault.

Another man, driver Michael Maranan, 34, of Barangay Cuta, was also killed in Barangay Bolbok as he was riding a green Honda Accord.

The armed men inside a van intercepted his vehicle, went out and opened fire at them, killing the driver and wounding two others.

Maranan's two companions were hit by bullets.

Mayor Dimacuha said in a statement that the attacks were politically-motivated.

He said he was under pressure from a candidate for governor.

He said when he refused to support the candidate, the candidate started to malign him in his campaign.

The candidate was heard saying that he would make the Dimacuhas suffer and if Dimacuha won as mayor, he would not sit for another term.

In Calamba City, three persons, including a retired police superintendent, were killed while four others were seriously wounded after two families, allegedly supporting rival mayoral candidates here, shot at each other past midnight yesterday in Barangay Palo Alto.

Senior Supt. Edmund Zaide, town police chief, identified those killed as Christopher Manaig, 20; Victor Molina, 40; and retired Supt. Domingo Lumbres, 57.

Injured were Elena Alcabasa, 49; her son Anthony, 23; Manaig's mother Martha, 56; and Lumbres' brother Menorio, 45. All were residents of nearby Barangay Laguerta.

Zaide said victims Christopher, Anthony and a certain Dennis Ambat were on their way home when brothers Lumbres, in a jeep, waylaid the group at around 12:30 a.m. for no apparent reason.

Christopher died of multiple gunshot wounds on the way to the hospital. Anthony is in serious condition while Ambat was able to survive the attack by escaping.

Zaide said he was uncertain if the attack was politically motivated.

"The suspects were apparently drunk when they shot the victims," said Zaide.

Reports reaching the INQUIRER, however, said Lumbres saw the victims tearing down posters of retired Col. Saturnino Lajara, the mayoral candidate of Lakas-CMD.

The Lumbreses are said to be supporting Lajara while the victims were supporters of another mayoral candidate, incumbent Rep. Joaquin Chipeco. *Vicente S. Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau; Mei Magsino and Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Quezon political prisoners join hunger strike for their release

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—In support of the nationwide protest fast of political prisoners, nine political prisoners in Quezon began their hunger strike and noise barrage on Friday.

The protest fast and noise barrage is set to last until April 5 to call for the immediate release of political prisoners as agreed upon during the recent round of peace negotiations between the government and communist leaders.

The agreement was reached as a confidence-building measure in Oslo, Norway on Feb. 9-14.

This developed as communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal yesterday said the Communist Party of the Philippines welcomed the government's order to release 32 political prisoners languishing in jail in different parts of the country.

Rosal said: "It has taken the government more than three years to partly rectify the long-standing injustice of keeping the political prisoners. Despite the long delay, the forthcoming release of 32 political prisoners is at least a good start for the building of confidence in the present peace negotiations."

Rosal noted that among those to be released is Zenaida Llesis, a nursing mother who has been inhumanely incarcerated for more than a year now. "We are relieved that the government finally heeded urgent demands for the release of Llesis and her child who is suffering from congenital heart defect."

The protest fast was started by Llesis last March 29. On Friday, the government declared that it would release 32 political prisoners, including women and minors, starting next week as part of its ongoing peace talks with communist rebels in Oslo, Norway.

But Rosal reminded the Macapagal administration that the 32 political prisoners are only part of the more than 300 political prisoners whose human rights continue to be violated and who should likewise be immediately released.

Marie Hilao-Enriquez, secretary general of rights group Karapatan, said the hunger strike will be staged by the almost 300 political prisoners nationwide to "show their disgust and disappointment over the government's deliberate inaction on their plight..." *Delfin T. Mallari Jr. and Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Bets lose cell phones to NPA rebels

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—For refusing to pay the rebels' permit-to-campaign fee, a town councilor and a council-aspirant were divested of their cell phones and barred from campaigning by about 15 suspected New People's Army rebels in Sitio Tibobong, Barangay Quinten Remo, Moises Padilla town in Negros Occidental.

Councilor Humphrey Hechanova, who was campaigning for his wife, Marlin, and council-aspirant Toti Muchuelas, were on their way to Sitio Tibobong in the barangay on board two motorcycles on March 31, when they were flagged down by the armed men.

Capt. Gulliver Senires, spokesperson of the Army's 303rd Infantry Brigade, yesterday said Hechanova and Muchuelas were asked to pay for campaign permits and when they failed to do so, their cell phones were taken.

They were released unharmed, Senires added.

Insp. Virgilio de la Cruz, Moises Padilla police chief, said Hechanova and Muchuelas, who is the chair of Barangay 7 of the town, did not report the incident to the town police.

De la Cruz said the 15 armed men who stopped Hechanova and Muchuelas from campaigning might be among the suspects who summarily executed charcoal maker Salvador Largado in the barangay on March 9, on suspicion that he was a military informer.

Senires said they were conducting more patrols in the countryside where rebels had been sighted, to prevent them from further extorting from candidates.

The 303rd Infantry Brigade has condemned the collection of campaign permits by rebels from candidates.

Lt. Col. Rey Guerrero, 61st Infantry Battalion commander, said they have monitored candidates in southern Negros Oriental paying campaign fees to the rebels.

Sweden backs forest plantations in RP

A VISIT by Swedish Ambassador Annika Markovic to forest plantations in Oriental Mindoro on March 18 confirmed the acceptability of the policy to award forest lands for man-made plantations to deserving upland farmers.

A news release by the Far East Wood Consultants Corp. (FEW) said trees grow five to 10 times faster in Philippine climate and soils.

FEW said it has tested "its unique cooperative blend of foreign funds and expertise and local land resources and labor" in San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro, among other places, "with encouraging results."

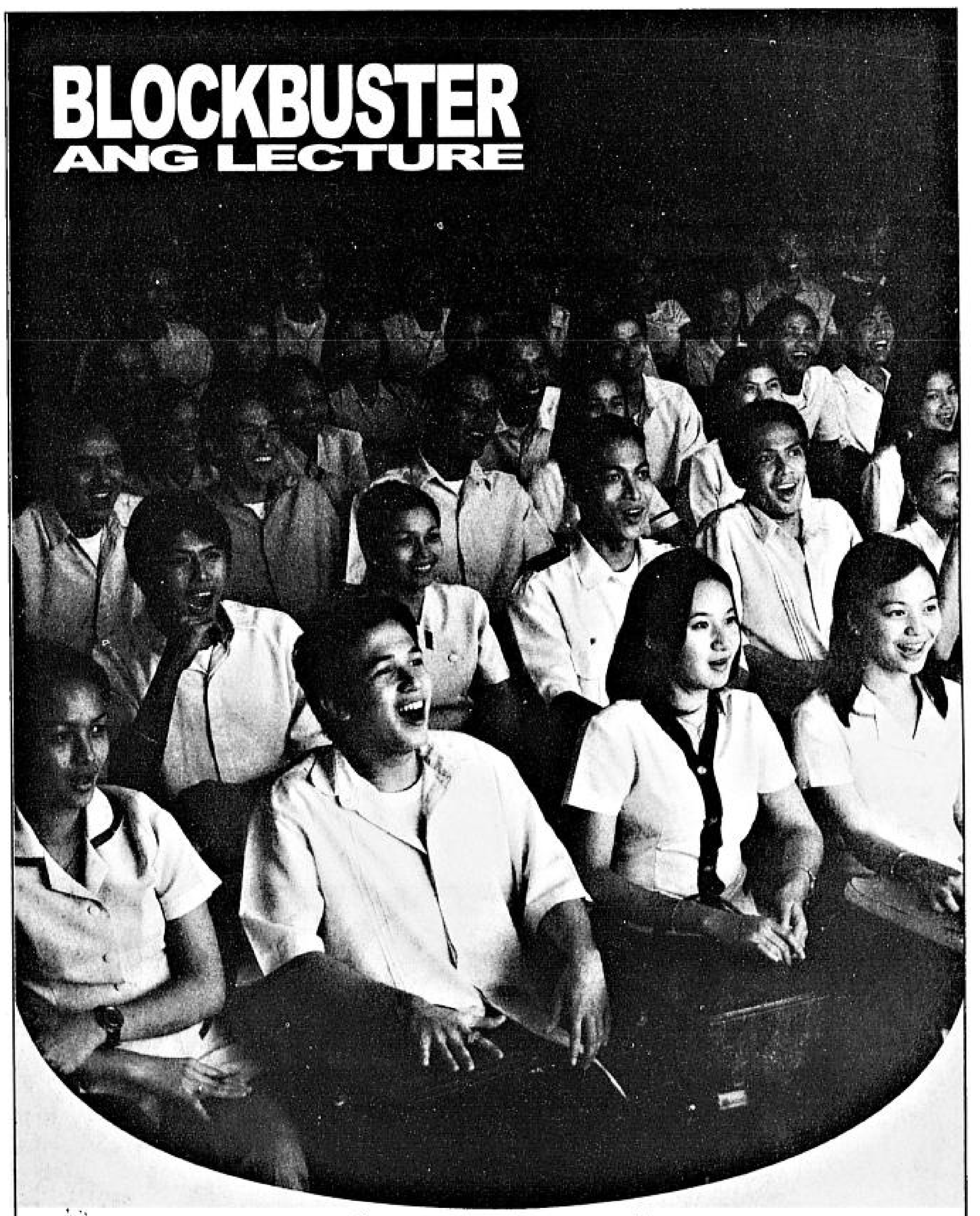
Led by Swedish managers, FEW had funds coming from investors from Sweden, a country "with a solid modern forest industry that is, however, urgently seeking new sources of wood and wood components."

Renato De Rueda, undersecretary for operations of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, who was with the Swedish ambassador, was optimistic that achieving the high standard of forest farming in Sweden is a realistic goal for Filipino farmers, the news release added.

Bonifacio Magtibay, Community-based Forest Management chair, and board members of the landholding community, also welcomed the prospects for wider support that the ambassador opened up with the visit, said the release.

Leaders of the Iraya Mangyan tribe also expressed satisfaction with the development.

The financial and technical assistance will enable the Mangyans to plant over 30,000 hectares of forest land. This is essential, as the eventual aim of such new wood resources is to feed a wood industry center in Calapan City.



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Party People Unite!

SMART Nationwild Takes Summer 2004 by Storm!

As the sun embraces the land in its warmth, the unmistakable signs that summer has arrived are evident everywhere. Resorts are filling up as people welcome the burning sun, and parties are getting hotter than ever. The hustle and bustle of the city gives way to the sizzling sands of the beach. Even as summer descends on the Philippines, let it be known that SMART is getting set to set an animal free throughout the archipelago.

Parties Aplenty!

SMART Nationwild will truly unleash the party animal in you! The summer of 2004 will be a true summer of fun and celebration! Party with SMART Buddy in summer hotspots like the DMC Heat Summer Fest in Boracay on April 8, Bantayan Island, Cebu from April 5-11, the "Nationwild in Puerto Galera" concerts from April 8-10, the "Nationwild in Baguio" concert on April 10, "Boracay Bound 3" from April 15-17, Jamaican Nights 2004 at the Cebu Beach Club on April 16-17, the "Nationwild Concert Series" at The Venue, Davao City on May 1, 15, and 29, and "Tropical Nights at the Sqaure' at Matina Town Square, Davao City on May 28 to enjoy freebies exclusive to SMART Buddy subscribers.

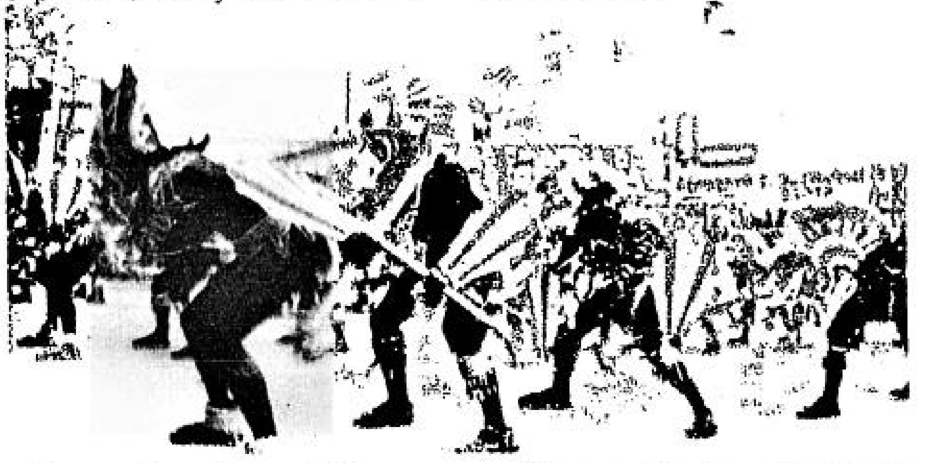
You can also celebrate "Fiestamazing!" Summer Festivals like the 1st Sibuyan Summerfest in Romblon, the Pista'y Dayat Festival of Pangasinan, Dagupan's Bangus Festival, the Moriones Festival in Marinduque, or join "Clubbin' In Style Celebrates Magayon Festival" in Albay.

Chillout Sessions and the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals too!

Enjoy the Chillout Sunsets Sessions in Club House Parao courtesy of Addict Mobile. Experience Steve Mills as he plays his R&B magic at Hey Jude, Boracay on April 8 and party like crazy with international sensation Slinky at the same venue on April 10. As Talk 'N Text celebrates its 4th anniversary, watch out as Talk 'N Text gives thanks to their loyal subscribers for the entire summer. You'll even get the chance to meet and greet the Talk 'N Text Phonepals of the PBA as the PBA Interactive booth tours the malls all summer long!

The new SMART Buddy Super SIM 3

Be one of the first to own the new SMART Buddy Super SIM 3, able to store up to 650 phone numbers or 105 text messages in your inbox! As the newest smart idea, the Super SIM 3 is a true must-have this summer. Love this summer with the SMART Buddy and McDonald's Blowout! If you purchase the Super SIM 3 at any McDonald's branch nationwide, you can get a Value Meal for free. Feeling adventurous this summer? Get the chance to win ride-all-you-can tickets at Star City when you SIM Swap or by a SMART Buddy Super SIM 3 at any SMART outlet.



Choose Your Dream Returns

The resounding success of SMART's Choose Your Dream promo has prompted a return of the biggest prize choices ever! Key in DREAM and send to 232 to register, every P15 you spend on any or a combination of SMART's products and special services earns you a raffle ticket. Every time you make IDD calls, send international texts, use MMS, or download from StarTXT, TNT Chismis, Music Link, Cinema Club, Music Link, Zed and other SMART services, you earn more raffle tickets towards your dream showcase.

This is just the tip of the iceberg as SMART prepares to go wild throughout the summer! So don't get caught with your head in the sand, unleash that inner party animal as SMART goes Nationwild!

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WOWPHILIPPINES 2004

April Calendar of Events & Festivals

MAJOR EVENTS

MALIBAY CENAKULO 2004
April 2-11 (adjustable) | Tanghalang Malibay, Malibay Plaza, Pasay City
A 10-day activity commencing with daily performances of particular scenes based from bible stories. Different scenes are to be performed by "Cenaculistas" directed by Mr. Francisco "Paking" Granada, one of the original Cenakulistas of Pasay.
Contact: Ms. Victoria Fuentes, Pasay City Tourism Office Telefax No. 551-0523

BUHING KALBARYO
April 04 - 10 | Cebu City, Cebu
During this Lenten season, the Buhing Kalbaryo Foundation Inc. will have for its Lenten presentation the following events:
Bendita sa Lukay on Palm Sunday at the Guadalupe Parish Church, the triumphant Entry of Jesus on horseback starts at Eskina Banawa, / Re-enactment of the trial of Jesus Christ at the San Nicolas Church Patio / Street Passion Drama to portray every station fro San Nicolas Church to Guadalupe Parish Church, / Sugat on Easter Sunday at Guadalupe Parish Church followed by the Easter mass.
Contact: Ms. Grace Melicor, Tel. No. 032-254-8684 / Ms. Mary Ann Salomon, Tel. No. 032-253-9159 to 61

SENAKULO / HOLY WEEK RITUALS & PROCESSIONS
April 04 - 11 | Nationwide / Cainta, Rizal
Passion plays called Senakulo are held in various places all over the Philippines during Holy Week. However, in Cainta, Rizal, people take to the streets to witness passion plays participated in by the town folks.
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IV

SEMANA SANTA AT IGUIG CALVARY HILLS
April 04 - April 11 | Iguig, Cagayan
Traditional presentation of the passion and death of Christ on an 11 hectare rolling terrain of the larger than life size 14 Stations of the Cross. / Contact: Mr. Gerry Piamonte, Office of the Mayor, Calabanga, Camarines Sur, Tel. No. 054-470-1340

SEMANA SANTA SA BIKOL
April 04 - 11 | Calabanga, Camarines Sur
A week-long observance of Bicolanos unique religiosity and a pilgrimage to "Amang Hinulid"
Contact: Mr. Gerry Piamonte; Office of the Mayor, Tel. No. 054-470-1340

ALLAW TA APO SANDAWA (Tribes honor Mt. Apo)
April 07 | Kidapawan City, North Cotabato
A gathering of all highlighted tribes in honor of Mt. Apo as the country's highest peak, it comes as no surprise that Mt. Apo is considered sacred ground. Join the highland tribes of Mindanao to the mountain in this annual gathering.
Contact: Mr. Benjamin B. Mallorca, Jr., Tel. No. 064-288-1389 and Tel/Fax No. 064-288-1604

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE FOUNDATION DAY
April 07| Bontoc, Mountain Province
Founding of the province, showcasing the Igorot culture by way of ethnic presentations. Other activities include a town parade, trade fair, sports competitions, and beauty pageant.
Contact: Ms. Leonila F. Malla-ao, Office of the Governor, Tel. No. 074-602-1036 with Fax No. 074-602-1016

SUMMER CLIMB '04
April 07 – 11 | Maragusan, Davao
An annual trek to Mount Candal.
Contact: Municipal Tourism Office: 0917-3361944

SINAKULO (WAY OF THE CROSS)
April 08-09 | Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City
A Maundy Thursday to Good Friday Presentation of stage re-enactment of the Savior's arrest, trial, and painful way to the Calvary, Crucifixion, and Death on the cross.
Contact: Ms. Alice Benzon, Parañaque City Cultural and Tourism Office, Telefax: 829-0691

MANUNUBOS
April 08 – 09 | Madridejos, Bantayan Island, Cebu
A dramatic re-enactment of Christ's last days, stations of the cross and crucifixion with a cast of hundreds. On Holy Thursday, the story line is until Judah's betrayal and death and on Good Friday, the stations of the cross.
Contact: Mr. Al Evangelia, Tel. No. 032-264-6425

PANAAD
April 08- April 09 | Camiguin
A pilgrim's yearly trek around the island in observance of the Lenten season.
Contact: Mr. Butch Chan III, Camiguin Tourism Officer, Tel. 088-387-1097 and 088-387-1022

EXPLORER'S CLIMB
April 08 – 09 | Camiguin Island
An adventure climb and trekking to discover Camiguin Island's wonders.
Contact: DOME at 858-8976 / Ms. Senny Macas at 09185348535 / DOT Regional Office for Region X

MT. HAMIGUITAN JOURNEY
April 08 - 12 | La Unino, San Isidro, Davao Oriental
A trek to Mt. Hamiguitan where one finds the 600 hectares Bonsai Field or the so called "Pgymy Forest".
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region XI

PAMALANDONG HA PALO
April 09 | Palo, Leyte
Dramatic Re-enactment of Christ's sufferings on the cross
Contact: Ex Mayor Salvador Moron, Tel. No. (053) 323-2480

PASKO SA KASAKIT (SEMANA SANTA SA BANTAYAN)
April 08 – 09 | Bantayan, Cebu
A unique mixture of solemn rites and local celebration highlighting the Holy Week activities in Bantayan Island.
Contact: Office of the Mayor / Bantayan Island, Tel. No. 032-460-9365

PAGTALTAL SA GUIMARAS
April 9 | Jordan Guimaras
An annual re-enactment of the story of salvation comparable to Germany's religious Oberramargau Drama.
Contact: Regional Office for Region VI

CUTUD LENTEN RITES
April 9 San Fernando City, Pampanga
A Re-enactment of Christ's Passion and death. The re-enactment is complete with a passion play and culminates with the actual nailing of at least three (3) penitents on wooden crosses atop a makeshift calvary.
Contact: Brgy Capt. Zoilo Castro, Tel. No. (045)963-7561

ARAW NG KAGITINGAN
April 09 | Mt. Samat, Pilar, Bataan
The fall of Bataan is a commemorated every year. Top government officials, Japanese and American WWII veterans including their Filipino counterparts and visitors go to Mt. Samat to participate in the annual rites held to honor the bravery of the soldiers who fought for the defense of Bataan.
Contact: Mr. Sarsi Cuyson; Provincial Tourism Officer, Tel. No. (047)791-4758

SALUBONG
April 10 - April 11 | Angono, Rizal
An easter Sunday presentation re-enacting the reunion of the Risen Christ with Virgin Mary.
Contact: DOT Regional Office Region IV

SUNDUAN HA CARIGARA
April 11| Carigara, Leyte
Cultural/Social activities and float parade held on Easter Sunday
Contact: Mayor Remegio Lauron, Tel. No. (053)331-2004

SALUBONG AND PASKO NG PAGKABUHAY
April 11 | Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City
The Easter Festivity unfolds at dawn around five o' clock with a procession heralding the ressurection of Christ and his reunion with Mary. The feast culminates with a celebration of a Holy Mass followed by the simultaneous rendition in the different barangays of "Sayaw ng Pagbati" also known as "bati-bati", a welcome dance that is also a Parañaque original.
Contact: Ms. Alice Benzon, Parañaque City Cultural and Tourism Office, Telefax: 829-0691

CONQUER MT. APO
April 13 - 20 | Mt. Apo, Davao City
An annual summer climb/trek to Mt. Apo, the country's highest peak.
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region XI

RODEO MASBATEÑO
April 14 - 17 | Masbate City
Local cowboys from Masbate pit their brains against bovine brawn in western style rodeo events like bull-riding and sterr wrestling, apart from local games like the good old carabao race.
Contact: Mr. Jose C. Zafra, Tourism Office, Office of the Governor, Masbate City, Tel. No. (056) 333-2176 and (056) 333-3012

ANGKAN-ANGKAN
April 16 | Marikina City, Metro Manila
Feast of clans celebrated as a tribute to the native residents of the city who formed the community and shaped the city's own culture and tradition.
Contact: Mr. Mario Villanueva, Marikina City Tourism Office, Telefax: 934-6784

PHILIPPINE DIVE FIESTA: MINDANAO DIVE CONGRESS
April 16 – 26 | Davao City
Convergence of various divers organization in Mindanao/Forum/Lecture/Fun Dive
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region XI, Tel. No. 082-221-0070

ISLAND CARAVAN: THE NAUTICAL HIGHWAY ADVENTURE (First Batch: Regular Run)
April 17 – 21 | Manila-Batangas-Puerto Galera-Calapan-Roxas-Caticlan-Boracay-Manila
A caravan to the above mentioned destinations via the Philippine Nautical Highway. It aims to set the standard tour packages for travelers to learn and experience the Philippines at its best.
Contact: The Secretariat, Sampaguita Travel, Tel. Nos. 892-1121, 815-2173, 817-7613 / Trips Travel, Tel. no. 752-4772, Fax No. 811-4460 / Baron Travel Tel. No. 817-4203, Fax no. 817-6694 / Annset Holidays Inc. Tel no. 405-6521, Fax no. 400-6626 / Marsman Tours & Travel Corp., Tel. Nos. 887-0000 Local 302 to 306, Fax No. 887-0655 / Travel Edge, Tel. Nos. 845-2230, 09178474560 / Rajha Tours Philippines Inc., Tel Nos. 522-0541 to 48 Fax no. 521-2831

LIGHTHOUSE DAVAO TO SAMAL ALL-TERRAIN RACE
April 23 – 25 | Island Garden, City of Samal
Mountain Bike Competition
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region XI, Davao

PISTA SA KINAIYAHAN MOUNT APO: CLEAN-UP AND TREE PLANTING
April 23 – 26 | Sta. Cruz, Davao
Mount Apo climb and clean-up of trails and tree planting
Contact: Municipal PAIC Office, 082-5153077.

3rd ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA SUMMER CARAVAN
April 23 - 27 | DOT Regionx IX
Caravan tour to Pagadian, Dipolog, Zamboanga City in cooperation with La Hermosa Tourism Foundation
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IX

CARAVAN SA HILAGA
April 23 – 28 | Hilaga/Banaue/Tuguegarao/Pagudpud/Laoag/Vigan/La Union/Baguio/Manaoag/Hundred Islands/Subic
Caravan sa Hilaga is part of the mega-caravan project of DOT aimed at promoting Northern Luzon as an alternative tourist destination for domestic and foreign travellers.
Contact: The Secretariat, Sampaguita Travel, Tel. Nos. 892-1121, 815-2173, 817-7613 / Trips Travel, Tel. no. 752-4772, Fax No. 811-4460 / Baron Travel Tel. No. 817-4203, Fax no. 817-6694 / Annset Holidays Inc. Tel no. 405-6521, Fax no. 400-6626 / Marsman Tours & Travel Corp., Tel. Nos. 887-0000 Local 302 to 306, Fax No. 887-0655 / Travel Edge, Tel. Nos. 845-2230, 09178474560 / Rajha Tours Philippines Inc., Tel Nos 522-0541 to 48 Fax no. 521-2831

1ST WORLD SPORTS AND LEISURE SHOW
April 26 - April 28 | World Trade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Manila
The show is the first of its kind in the Philippines and will gather the best producers of sports products both by land and sea, sports accessories, equipment, vehicles, sports clubs, magazine, licensing, services, health and fitness centers and different resorts, simultaneous with the event are different activities such as wall climbing, basketball shootout, fencing, archery, gymnastics, taekwondo, remote control cars/airplane competition, kite flying and many more.
Contact: Ms. Ruby C. Ocfemia, Marketing Manager, Worldbex Services International, 531-6374 / 531-6350 / Fax: 5332026

BAGUIO LIBERATION
April 27 | Baguio City
Annual Commemoration of the city's liberation from the Japanese occupying forces during World War II.
Contact: Nars Padilla c/o City Government of Baguio or DOT Regional Office for CAR

ANTIPOLO PILGRIMAGE
April 30 – May 01 | A pilgrimage in honor of the Virgin of Antipolo starting on the evening of April 30 where thousands of devotees from several places in Metro Manila make an annual trek on foot towards the Vrigin's shrine in Antipolo City.
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IV

BIYAHENG SINGKO SINGKO
April 05-18 | Manila-Laguna
In celebration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's 57th birthday, the Department of Tourism will be developing and promoting value-for-money tours for domestic travelers. All the tours will have a uniform rate of Php 500.00 each period. The packages will be launched on the President's birthday on April 5 and will have 4 more runs until April 18. Each of the 5 Branch will have 5 buses per destination pick-up and endpoint for each tour will be the DOT Building. Contact: Department of Tourism, Domestic Market Planning Division. Tel. No. 5239031.

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES: "Z CARD" LAUNCH
Location: Fiestamall
Description: Fifty thousand copies of the Z card will be distributed at the departure area of Terminals 1,2, and Mactan Airport. Z cards will contain info on shopping privileges, promos, upcoming events, merchandise, and discount coupons that can be used at Fiestamall.
Contact: Duty Free Philippines, Tel. #: 879-3541 and Fax #: 879-3667

MAJOR FESTIVALS

KUTSITSA FESTIVAL
April / Molave, Zamboanga Del Sur
Street Dancing Competition and Agri-trade Fair are among the activities held.
Contact: Mayor Flavio Sanial / DOT Regional Office for Region IX

BANANA FESTIVAL
April 01 - 05 | La Castellana, Negros Occidental
An agricultural trade showcase of the bountiful harvest of the municipality, particularly banana.
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region VI

LILIW GAT TAYAW FOOTWEAR FESTIVAL
April 03 - 07 | Liliw, Laguna
A colorful event highlighted by a parade of floats featuring the agricultural and industrial products of Liliw.
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IV

MORIONES FESTIVAL
April 04- April 11 | Boac, Mogpog, Gasan, Marinduque
A week-long festival featuring finely-carved masks worn by a colorful warriors depicting the fierce Roman soldiers of Christ's time. / Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IV

TURUMBA FESTIVAL
April 09| Pakil, Laguna
The largest religious activity consist of seven fiestas or "lupi" to commemorate the seven (7) sorrows of Our Lady of Turumba, starting before the Holy Week every nine (9) days thereafter and ends in the month of June and is celebrated with a dancing procession. / Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IV

MANOK NI SAN PEDRO FESTIVAL
April 10 | San Pedro, Laguna
Grand Parade of various and colorful floats participated in by both government and private sectors while the tribal groups aggressively partake on street dancing with numerous tribal participants lined-up alternately with floats.
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IV

LENTEN FESTIVAL OF HERBAL PREPARATION
April 10 | San Antonio, Siquijor
A time when herbalists from all over Visayas and Mindanao participate in a ritual known as "Tan-Alap".
Contact: Ms. Glenn, Office of the Mayor, Tel. No. 035-344-2074

TORUGPO FESTIVAL
April 10| Carigara, Leyte
A festival featuring carabao and horse fights
Contact: Mayor Remegio Lauron, Tel. No. 053-331-2004

PANA-AD SA NEGROS FESTIVAL (Grand celebration)
April 12 - 21 | Bacolod City
A grand celebration bringing together all the 10 cities and 22 municipalities in a showcase of trade, tourism, commerce and industry, arts and culture.
Contact: BM Angelito Colmenares; Executive Director, Panaad Park, Bgy. Mansilingan, Bacolod City, Tel. No. 034-446-1581

TANDAYUNG FESTIVAL
April 18 (3rd Sunday) | San Jose City
A parade to give thanx for a good harvest participated by various barangays and establishments in colorful costumes and instead of marching, dance in the streets. Another attraction of the festival are the improvised musical instruments made of native materials played by the participants.
Contact: Mr. Lito Buenaventura; City Tourism Officer, Tel. Nos. 044-511-1234, 044-511-1615, and 044-947-1132

COCOWAYAN FESTIVAL
April 20 - 25 | Isabela City
Beauty Contest, streetdances, and trade fair of coconut and bamboo products characterize this festival.
Contact: Mr. Mike Manapol c/o DOT Regional Office for Region IX

BANGKARERA (Boat-rowing race)
April 21 | Peñablanca, Cagayan
A boat-rowing race festival on the waters of scenic Pinacanauan River
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region II

SANDUGUAN FESTIVAL
April 21 - 27 | Calapan, Mindoro Oriental
A weeklong festivity that features agro-trade fair, historical parade, re-enactment of the barter trading and a street dancing competition. / Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IV

KADAUGAN SA MACTAN FESTIVAL
April 22 - 27 | Bgy. Mactan, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu
A weeklong commemoration of the historic battle of Mactan between the Spanish Conquistador Fernando Magallanes and Mactan Chieftain Lapu-Lapu.
Contact: Ms. Sunshine Alegre, City Tourism Office Tel No. 032-341-1644

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The said two (2) barangays share one patron – Sta. Rosa de Lima. This is a miraculous image found by two (2) fishermen from the two (2) barangays. These barangays hold their respective fiestas every other year. The image is fetched by the celebrating barangay from the other barangay – a colorful procession for the Sunduan can be seen.
Contact: Ms. Josefina Alvarez, Pasig City Cultural Affairs and Local Tourism Council, Telefax 628-0379

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April 25 - 30 | Hinigaran, Negros Occidental
A weeklong festivity that culminates with a grand parade featuring street dancing performers in their colorful costumes.
Contact: Mayor Caroll Guanco, Municipality of Hinigaran, Tel. No. 034-391-7715 and Telefax 034-391-7495

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April 26-28 | Sagñay, Camarines Sur
This festival showcases the different tourism areas in the district and launch the municipality of Sagñay as summer capital of Partido. Visitors converge in NATO shoreline or Baybayon in local dialect where various activities are featured.
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A festival showcasing local arts and culture, fashion, and unity. It features "Mardi Gras" – Type streetdancing in celebration of the "Yagyag" or the spawning process and harvest of crabs and other marine life in Sapa, one of two springs found in Barangay Cangmating of Sibulan.
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Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region I

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Part of Dagupan's Pista'y Dayat celebration, highlight of which is the longest bangus grill, 101 ways to cook bangus, Bangus Harvest Dance parade, sports competition/exhibition.
Contact: Mayor's Office Tel.No. 075-515-4343 and 075-522-8257.

MEDIAWISE COMMUNICATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM REGIONAL OFFICES DIRECTORY

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E-mail Address: ncr@tourism.gov.ph

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Area Code: 074

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LAOAG SUB OFFICE:
Tel. #: 772-0467
Area Code: 077

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Telefax: 846-2435
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E-mail Address: dotr5@globalink.net.ph

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Cell #: 0917-3026691
Telefax: 335-0245
Area Code: 033
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BORACAY FIELD OFFICE:
Telefax: 288-3689

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Fax #: 254-2711
Area Code: 032
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Telefax: 325-5279
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E-mail Address: dotev@skyinet.net

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E-mail Address: dot10@cdot.weblinq.com

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Telefax: 221-0070 / 225-1940
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tourism@balanghai.com

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DOT Website: www.wowphilippines.com.ph
Tourism Info Counter Tel. #: 5241703 and 5242384 local 146

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WOWPHILIPPINES 2004

April Calendar of Events & Festivals

MAJOR EVENTS

MALIBAY CENAKULO 2004
April 2-11 (adjustable) | Tanghalang Malibay, Malibay Plaza, Pasay City.
A 10-day activity commencing with daily performances of particular scenes based from bible stories. Different scenes are to be performed by "Cenaculistas" directed by Mr. Francisco "Paking" Granada, one of the original Cenakulistas of Pasay.
Contact: Ms. Victoria Fuentes, Pasay City Tourism Office Telefax No. 551-0523

BUHING KALBARYO
April 04 - 10 | Cebu City, Cebu
During this Lenten season, the Buhing Kalbaryo Foundation Inc. will have for its Lenten presentation the following events:
Bendita sa Lukay on Palm Sunday at the Guadalupe Parish Church, the triumphant Entry of Jesus on horseback starts at Eskina Banawa. / Re-enactment of the trial of Jesus Christ at the San Nicolas Church Patio / Street Passion Drama to portray every station fro San Nicolas Church to Guadalupe Parish Church. / Sugat on Easter Sunday at Guadalupe Parish Church followed by the Easter mass
Contact: Ms. Grace Melicor, Tel No. 032-254-8684 / Ms. Mary Ann Salomon, Tel. No.032-253-9159 to 61

SENAKULO / HOLY WEEK RITUALS & PROCESSIONS
April 04 - 11 | Nationwide / Cainta, Rizal
Passion plays called Senakulo are held in various places all over the Philippines during Holy Week. However, in Cainta, Rizal, people take to the streets to witness passion plays participated in by the town folks.
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IV

SEMANA SANTA AT IGUIG CALVARY HILLS
April 04 - April 11 | Iguig, Cagayan
Traditional presentation of the passion and death of Christ on an 11 hectare rolling terrain of the larger than life size 14 Stations of the Cross. / Contact: Mr. Gerry Piamonte, Office of the Mayor, Calabanga, Camarines Sur, Tel. No. 054-470-1340

SEMANA SANTA SA BIKOL
April 04 - 11 | Calabanga, Camarines Sur
A week-long observance of Bicolanos unique religiosity and a pilgrimage to "Amang Hinulid"
Contact: Mr. Gerry Piamonte; Office of the Mayor, Tel. No. 054-470-1340

ALLAW TA APO SANDAWA (Tribes honor Mt. Apo)
April 07 | Kidapawan City, North Cotabato
A gathering of all highlighted tribes in honor of Mt. Apo as the country's highest peak, it comes as no surprise that Mt. Apo is considered sacred ground. Join the highland tribes of Mindanao to the mountain in this annual gathering
Contact: Mr. Benjamin B. Mallorca, Jr., Tel. No 064-288-1389 and Tel/Fax No. 064-288-1604

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE FOUNDATION DAY
April 07 | Bontoc, Mountain Province
Founding of the province, showcasing the Igorot culture by way of ethnic presentations. Other activities include a town parade, trade fair, sports competitions, and beauty pageant.
Contact: Ms. Leonila F Malla-ao, Office of the Governor, Tel. No. 074-602-1036 with Fax No. 074-602-1016

SUMMER CLIMB '04
April 07 - 11 | Maragusan, Davao
An annual trek to Mount Canda.
Contact: Municipal Tourism Office: 0917-3361944

SINAKULO (WAY OF THE CROSS)
April 08-09 | Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City
A Maundy Thursday to Good Friday Presentation of stage re-enactment of the Savior's arrest, trial and painful way to the Calvary. Crucifixion and Death on the cross
Contact: Ms. Alice Benzon, Paranaque City Cultural and Tourism Office, Telefax: 829-0691

MANUNUBOS
April 08 - 09 | Madridejos, Bantayan Island, Cebu
A dramatic re-enactment of Christ's last days, stations of the cross and crucifixion with a cast of hundreds. On Holy Thursday, the story line is until Judah's betrayal and death and on Good Friday, the stations of the cross.
Contact: Mr. Al Evangelia, Tel. No. 032-264-6425

PANAAD
April 08- April 09 | Camiguin
A pilgrim"s yearly trek around the island in observance of the Lenten season.
Contact: Mr. Butch Chan III, Camiguin Tourism Officer, Tel. 088-387-1097 and 088-387-1022

EXPLORER'S CLIMB
April 08 - 09 | Camiguin Island
An adventure climb and trekking to discover Camiguin Island's wonders.
Contact: DOME at 858-8976 / Ms. Senny Macas at 09185348535 / DOT Regional Office for Region X

MT. HAMIGUITAN JOURNEY
April 08 - 12 | La Union San Isidro Davao Oriental
A trek to Mt. Hamiguitan where one finds the 600 hectares Bonsai Field or the so called "Pgymy Forest".
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region XI

PAMALANDONG HA PALO
April 09 | Palo, Leyte
Dramatic Re-enactment of Christ's sufferings on the cross
Contact: Ex Mayor Salvador Moron, Tel. No. (053) 323-2480

PASKO SA KASAKIT (SEMANA SANTA SA BANTAYAN)
April 08 - 09 | Bantayan, Cebu
A unique mixture of solemn rites and local celebration highlighting the Holy Week activities in Bantayan Island.
Contact: Office of the Mayor / Bantayan Island, Tel. No. 032-460-9365

PAGTALTAL SA GUIMARAS
April 9 | Jordan Guimaras
An annual re-enactment of the story of salvation comparable to Germany's religious Oberramargau Drama.
Contact: Regional Office for Region VI

CUTUD LENTEN RITES
April 9 San Fernando City, Pampanga
A Re-enactment of Christ's Passion and death. The re-enactment is complete with a passion play and culminates with the actual nailing of at least three (3) penitents on wooden crosses atop a makeshift calvary.
Contact: Brgy Capt. Zoilo Castro, Tel. No. (045)963-7561

ARAW NG KAGITINGAN
April 09 | Mt. Samat, Pilar, Bataan
The fall of Bataan is a commemorated every year. Top government officials, Japanese and American WWII veterans including their Filipino counterparts and visitors go to Mt. Samat to participate in the annual rites held to honor the bravery of the soldiers who fought for the defense of Bataan.
Contact: Mr. Sarsi Cuayson, Provincial Tourism Officer, Tel. No. (047)791-4758

SALUBONG
April 10 - April 11 | Angono, Rizal
An easter Sunday presentation re-enacting the reunion of the Risen Christ with Virgin Mary.
Contact: DOT Regional Office Region IV

SUNDUAN HA CARIGARA
April 11 | Carigara, Leyte
Cultural/Social activities and float parade held on Easter Sunday
Contact: Mayor Remegio Lauron, Tel. No (053)331-2004

SALUBONG AND PASKO NG PAGKABUHAY
April 11 | Brgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City
The Easter Festivity unfolds at dawn around five o' clock with a procession heralding the ressurection of Christ and his reunion with Mary. The feast culminates with a celebration of a Holy Mass followed by the simultaneous rendition in the different barangays of "Sayaw ng Pagbati" also known as "bati-bati", a welcome dance that is also a Parañaque original.
Contact: Ms. Alice Benzon, Parañaque City Cultural and Tourism Office.
Telefax: 829-0691

CONQUER MT. APO
April 13 - 20 | Mt. Apo, Davao City
An annual summer climb/trek to Mt. Apo, the country's highest peak.
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region XI

RODEO MASBATEÑO
April 14 - 17 | Masbate City
Local cowboys from Masbate pit their brains against bovine brawn in western style rodeo events like bull-riding and sterr wrestling, apart from local games like the good old carabao race
Contact: Mr. Jose C. Zafra, Tourism Office, Office of the Governor, Masbate City, Tel. No. (056) 333-2176 and (056) 333-3012

ANGKAN-ANGKAN
April 16 | Marikina City, Metro Manila
Feast of clans celebrated as a tribute to the native residents of the city who formed the community and shaped the city"s own culture and tradition.
Contact: Mr. Mario Villanueva, Marikina City Tourism Office, Telefax: 934-6784

PHILIPPINE DIVE FIESTA: MINDANAO DIVE CONGRESS
April 16 - 26 | Davao City
Convergence of various divers organization in Mindanao/Forum/Lecture/Fun Dive
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region XI, Tel. No. 082-221-0070

ISLAND CARAVAN: THE NAUTICAL HIGHWAY ADVENTURE (First Batch: Regular Run)
April 17 - 21 | Manila-Batangas-Puerto Galera-Calapan-Roxas-Caticlan-Boracay-Manila
A caravan to the above mentioned destinations via the Philippine Nautical Highway. It aims to set the standard tour packages for travelers to learn and experience the Philippines at its best.
Contact: The Secretariat, Sampaguita Travel, Tel. Nos. 892-1121, 815-2173, 817-7613 / Trips Travel, Tel. no. 752-4772, Fax No 811-4460 / Baron Travel Tel. No. 817-4203, Fax no 817-6694 / Annset Holidays Inc. Tel no 405-6521, Fax no 400-6626 / Marsman Tours & Travel Corp., Tel. Nos. 887-0000 Local 302 to 306, Fax No. 887-0655 / Travel Edge, Tel. Nos. 845-2230, 09178474560 / Rajha Tours Philippines Inc., Tel Nos. 522-0541 to 48 Fax no. 521-2831

LIGHTHOUSE DAVAO TO SAMAL ALL-TERRAIN RACE
April 23 - 25 | Island Garden, City of Samal
Mountain Bike Competition
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region XI, Davao

PISTA SA KINAIYAHAN MOUNT APO: CLEAN-UP AND TREE PLANTING
April 23 - 26 | Sta. Cruz, Davao
Mount Apo climb and clean-up of trails and tree planting
Contact: Municipal PAIC Office, 082-5153077

3rd ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA SUMMER CARAVAN
April 23 - 27 | DOT Regionx IX
Caravan tour to Pagadian, Dipolog, Zamboanga City in cooperation with La Hermosa Tourism Foundation
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IX

CARAVAN SA HILAGA
April 23 - 28 | Hilaga/Banaue/Tuguegarao/Pagudpud/Laoag/Vigan/La Union/Baguio/Manaoag/Hundred Islands/Subic
Caravan sa Hilaga is part of the mega-caravan project of DOT aimed at promoting Northern Luzon as an alternative tourist destination for domestic and foreign travellers.
Contact: The Secretariat, Sampaguita Travel, Tel. Nos. 892-1121, 815-2173, 817-7613 / Trips Travel, Tel. no 752-4772, Fax No.811-4460 / Baron Travel Tel. No. 817-4203, Fax no. 817-6694 / Annset Holidays Inc. Tel no. 405-6521, Fax no. 400-6626 / Marsman Tours & Travel Corp., Tel. Nos 887-0000 Local 302 to 306, Fax No. 887-0655 / Travel Edge, Tel. Nos. 845-2230, 09178474560 / Rajha Tours Philippines Inc Tel Nos 522-0541 to 48 Fax no 521-2831

1ST WORLD SPORTS AND LEISURE SHOW
April 26 - April 28 | World Trade Center Roxas Boulevard, Manila
The show is the first of its kind in the Philippines and will gather the best producers of sports products both by land and sea, sports accessories, equipment, vehicles, sports clubs, magazine, licensing, services, health and fitness centers and different resorts, simultaneous with the event are different activities such as wall climbing, basketball shootout, fencing, archery, gymnastics, taekwondo, remote control cars/airplane competition, kite flying and many more.
Contact: Ms. Ruby C. Oclemia, Marketing Manager, Worldbex Services International, 531-6374 / 531-6350 / Fax: 5332026

BAGUIO LIBERATION
April 27 | Baguio City
Annual Commemoration of the city's liberation from the Japanese occupying forces during World War II.
Contact: Nars Padilla c/o City Government of Baguio or DOT Regional Office for CAR

ANTIPOLO PILGRIMAGE
April 30 - May 01 | A pilgrimage in honor of the Virgin of Antipolo starting on the evening of April 30 where thousands of devotees from several places in Metro Manila make an annual trek on foot towards the Virgin's shrine in Antipolo City
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IV

BIYAHENG SINGKO SINGKO
April 05-18 | Manila-Laguna
In celebration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's 57th birthday, the Department of Tourism will be developing and promoting value-for-money tours for domestic travelers. All the tours will have a uniform rate of Php 500.00 each period. The packages will be launched on the President's birthday on April 5 and will have 4 more runs until April 18. Each of the 5 Branch will have 5 buses per destination pick-up and endpoint for each tour will be the DOT Building. Contact: Department of Tourism, Domestic Market Planning Division. Tel. No. 5239031

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES: "Z CARD" LAUNCH
Location: Fiestamall
Description: Fifty thousand copies of the Z card will be distributed at the departure area of Terminals 1,2, and Mactan Airport. Z cards will contain info on shopping privileges, promos, upcoming events, merchandise, and discount coupons that can be used at Fiestamall.
Contact: Duty Free Philippines, Tel. #: 879-3541 and Fax #: 879-3667

MAJOR FESTIVALS

KUTSITSA FESTIVAL
April / Molave, Zamboanga Del Sur
Street Dancing Competition and Agri-trade Fair are among the activities held.
Contact: Mayor Flavio Sanel / DOT Regional Office for Region IX

BANANA FESTIVAL
April 01 - 05 | La Castellana, Negros Occidental
An agricultural trade showcase of the bountiful harvest of the municipality, particularly banana
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region VI

LILIW GAT TAYAW FOOTWEAR FESTIVAL
April 03 - 07 | Liliw, Laguna
A colorful event highlighted by a parade of floats featuring the agricultural and industrial products of Liliw.
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IV

MORIONES FESTIVAL
April 04- April 11 | Boac, Mogpog, Gasan, Marinduque
A week-long festival featuring finely-carved masks worn by a colorful warriors depicting the fierce Roman soldiers of Christ"s time. / Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IV

TURUMBA FESTIVAL
April 09| Pakil, Laguna
The largest religious activity consist of seven fiestas or "lupi" to commemorate the seven (7) sorrows of Our Lady of Turumba, starting before the Holy Week every nine (9) days thereafter and ends in the month of June and is celebrated with a dancing procession.
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IV

MANOK NI SAN PEDRO FESTIVAL
April 10 | San Pedro, Laguna
Grand Parade of various and colorful floats participated in by both government and private sectors while the tribal groups aggressively partake on street dancing with numerous tribal participants lined-up alternately with floats.
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region IV

LENTEN FESTIVAL OF HERBAL PREPARATION
April 10 | San Antonio, Siquijor
A time when herbalists from all over Visayas and Mindanao participate in a ritual known as "Tan-Alap".
Contact: Ms. Glenn, Office of the Mayor, Tel. No. 035-344-2074

TORUGPO FESTIVAL
April 10| Carigara, Leyte
A festival featuring carabao and horse fights
Contact: Mayor Remegio Lauron, Tel. No 053-331-2004

PANA-AD SA NEGROS FESTIVAL (Grand celebration)
April 12 - 21 , Bacolod City
A grand celebration bringing together all the 10 cities and 22 municipalities in a showcase of trade, tourism, commerce and industry, arts and culture.
Contact: BM Angelito Colmenares, Executive Director, Panaad Park, Bgy. Mansilingan, Bacolod City, Tel. No. 034-446-1581

TANDAYUNG FESTIVAL
April 18 (3rd Sunday) | San Jose City
A parade to give thanx for a good harvest participated by various barangays and establishments in colorful costumes and instead of marching, dance in the streets. Another attraction of the festival are the improvised musical instruments made of native materials played by the participants.
Contact: Mr. Lito Buenaventura, City Tourism Officer, Tel. Nos. 044-511-1234, 044-511-1615, and 044-947-1132

COCOWAYAN FESTIVAL
April 20 - 25 | Isabela City
Beauty Contest, streetdances, and trade fair of coconut and bamboo products characterize this festival.
Contact: Mr. Mike Manapol c/o DOT Regional Office for Region IX

BANGKARERA (Boat-rowing race)
April 21 | Penablanca, Cagayan
A boat-rowing race festival on the waters of scenic Pinacanauan River
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region II

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April 21 - 27 | Calapan, Mindoro Oriental
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A weeklong commemoration of the historic battle of Mactan between the Spanish Conquistador Fernando Magallanes and Mactan Chieftain Lapu-Lapu.
Contact: Ms. Sunshine Alegre, City Tourism Office Tel No. 032-341-1644

SUNDUAN FESTIVAL
April 24| Brgy. Bagong Ilog & Brgy. Sumilang, Pasig City
The said two (2) barangays share one patron – Sta. Rosa de Lima. This is a miraculous image found by two (2) fishermen from the two (2) barangays. These barangays hold their respective fiestas every other year. The image is fetched by the celebrating barangay from the other barangay – a colorful procession for the Sunduan can be seen.
Contact: Ms. Josefina Alvarez, Pasig City Cultural Affairs and Local Tourism Council, Telefax 628-0379

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A weeklong festivity that culminates with a grand parade featuring street dancing performers in their colorful costumes.
Contact: Mayor Caroll Guanco, Municipality of Hinigaran, Tel. No. 034-391-7715 and Telefax 034-391-7495

PARTIDO BAYBAYON FESTIVAL
April 26-28 | Sagñay, Camarines Sur
This festival showcases the different tourism areas in the district and launch the municipality of Sagñay as summer capital of Partido. Visitors converge in NATO shoreline or Baybayon in local dialect where various activities are featured.
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BINIRAYAN FESTIVAL
April 26-29 | San Jose, Antique
Commemorates the landing of the ten (10) Malay Datus in Malandog, Hamtic, Antique in the middle of the 13th century to set-up the first Malayan settlement or barangay in this country
Contact: Gov. Salvacion Z. Perez, Provincial Capitol, Tel. No. 036-520-3657 and 036-540-9649

YAGYAG FESTIVAL
April 27| Cangmating Sibulan, Negros Oriental
A festival showcasing local arts and culture, fashion, and unity. It features "Mardi Gras" – Type streetdancing in celebration of the "Yagyag" or the spawning process and harvest of crabs and other marine life in Sapa, one of two springs found in Barangay Cangmating of Sibulan.
Contact: Ms. Myla Bromo, Provincial Tourism Office, Tel No 035-225-1825

MANGO-BAMBOO FESTIVAL AND TRADE FAIR
April 27 - 28 | San Carlos City, Pangasinan
A festival promoting San Carlos City as a major trading center of amboo based products/furniture and best producer of "carabao" mangoes and other mango variety in the country.
Contact: DOT Regional Office for Region I

BANGUS FESTIVAL
April 28 - May 01 | Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Part of Dagupan's Pista'y Dayat celebration, highlight of which is the longest bangus grill, 101 ways to cook bangus, Bangus Harvest Dance parade, sports competition/exhibition.
Contact: Mayor's Office Tel No 075-515-4343 and 075-522-8257

MEDIAWISE COMMUNICA

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM REGIONAL OFFICES DIRECTORY

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Fax # 524-8321
E-mail Address: ncr@tourism.gov.ph

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Telefax 888 2098
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DAR distributes 81 hectares of hacienda owned by GMA husband

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) on Friday distributed to 98 beneficiaries about 81 hectares of land belonging to the family of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in the towns of Binalbagan and Hinigaran, Negros Occidental.

At least 74 agrarian reform beneficiaries received Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (Cloas) for the 62 of the 81-hectare Hacienda Olimbo in Hinigaran owned by Pedro Arroyo, uncle of the First Gentleman.

Nineteen hectares were also given to 24 beneficiaries of Hacienda Manolita in Binalbagan, which was owned by Antonio Arroyo, also an uncle of the First Gentleman.

The 98 agrarian reform beneficiaries were farm workers and tenants of the two Arroyo landholdings. They were among the 1,950 beneficiaries who received their Cloas in a ceremony graced by Agrarian Reform Secretary Jose Ma. Ponce at the public plaza here.

The Cloas covered 2,400 hectares of land in Negros Occidental, which were placed under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

Ponce said the Arroyos have committed more than 700 hectares of their landholdings for agrarian reform. More than 300 hectares had already been distributed while the remaining 200 hectares were still being processed.

He said the Cloa distribution was the gift of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the people of Negros Occidental.

Ms Macapagal will celebrate her birthday on Monday. She was supposed to reportedly distribute the Cloas personally but there were changes in her schedule. She sent Ponce instead.

The First Gentleman's brother, Iggy, is running for representative under the Lakas-CMD party.

The Arroyo landholdings were part of the promises made by Ms Macapagal as part of her administration's implementation of the agrarian reform program.

Since it was signed into law, CARP has generated more controversy from dissatisfied farmers and landowners who resisted the loss of their landholdings.

The implementation of CARP was delayed by landowner resistance and the agrarian reform department has been clogged with cases of landowners suing the government or farmers to keep their property.

CHALLENGE TO FPJ

Gloria calls for debate on Negros sugar industry

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo Friday challenged presidential aspirant Fernando Poe Jr. to a debate in Bacolod City on their plans for the sugar industry and what has been done for it over the years.

The President made the dare after Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Maranon, a stalwart of the Nationalist People's Coalition, was quoted as saying that he decided to support Poe because of his programs for the sugar industry.

"If Poe has a clear plan for the sugar industry, then we should debate on them before the people of Negros Occidental," the President said in an interview over radio station dyEZ here.

Poe will be in Negros Occidental this weekend for a series of rallies to woo the 1.4-million voters of the province that is considered a Macapagal bailiwick.

Maranon was among some 100 NPC members who switched support from President Macapagal to Poe.

When asked for her reaction to Maranon's shift to the camp of Poe, Ms Macapagal said she was happy that she has the continued support of the people of Negros Occidental.

She maintained that in three years that she has been president, she has implemented many measures to help the sugar industry.

"I am a daughter-in-law of Negros Occidental and I know its lifeblood is the sugar industry," she said, referring to her husband, Mike Arroyo, who belongs to the landed sugar planter clan from this province.

Ms Macapagal said her husband's family comes from the towns of Binalbagan and Isabela, whose main source of income is sugar. "The food on my table came from the sugar industry," she said.

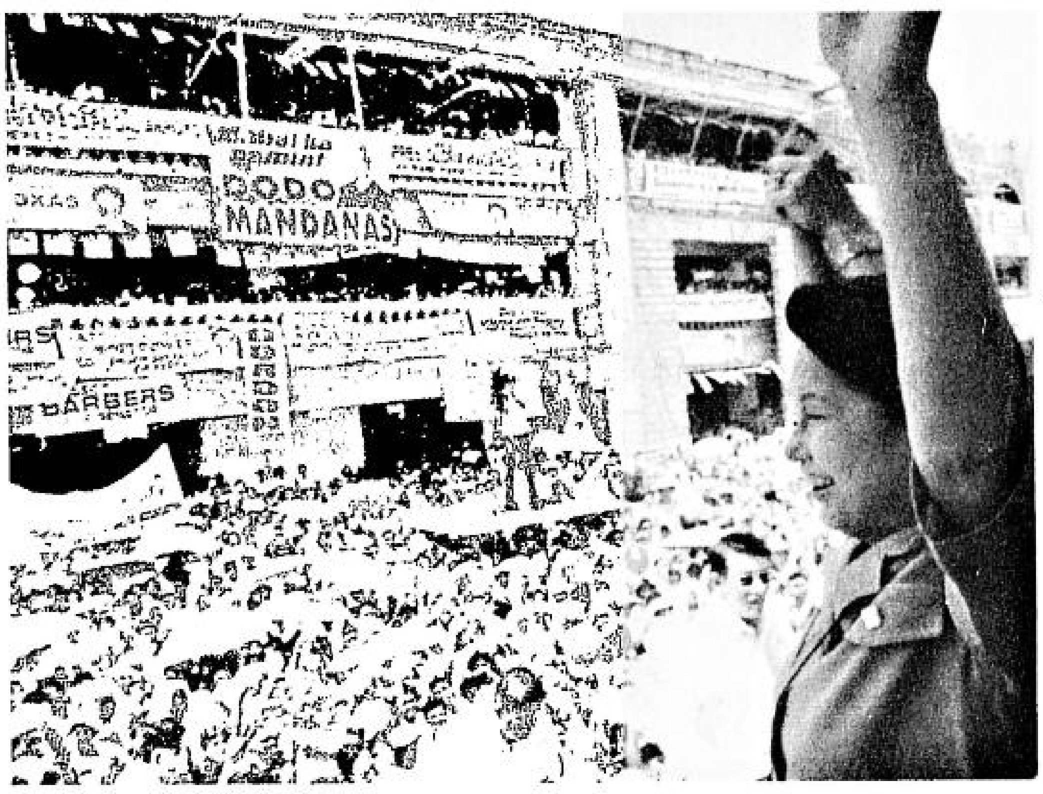
President Macapagal noted that when she assumed the presidency in 2001, one of her first acts was to meet with the leaders of the sugar industry to assure them that her administration would "make sure that all is done for the good of the sugar industry."

For the last two and half years, she said, production and prices of sugar have gone up.

When the sugar industry faced a crisis early this year due to the fall in sugar prices, Ms Macapagal said she immediately responded to their concern by, among others, raising the tariff on imported premix sugar that had been giving undue competition to locally produced sugar.

She said she also appointed Angelo Reyes as the anti-smuggling czar to help address the sugar industry's concern over rampant sugar smuggling.

She said she also directed the Bureau of Internal Revenue to defer the implementation of the advance value-added tax on the sugar industry pending further study; ordered the hastening of the export of sugar to decongest the local market; and directed the National Food Authority to buy the excess sugar to shore up prices.



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo greets a crowd at the Batangas City port, continuing her campaign for a full term that also brought her to the country's sugar bowl in Negros. VAL HANDUMON

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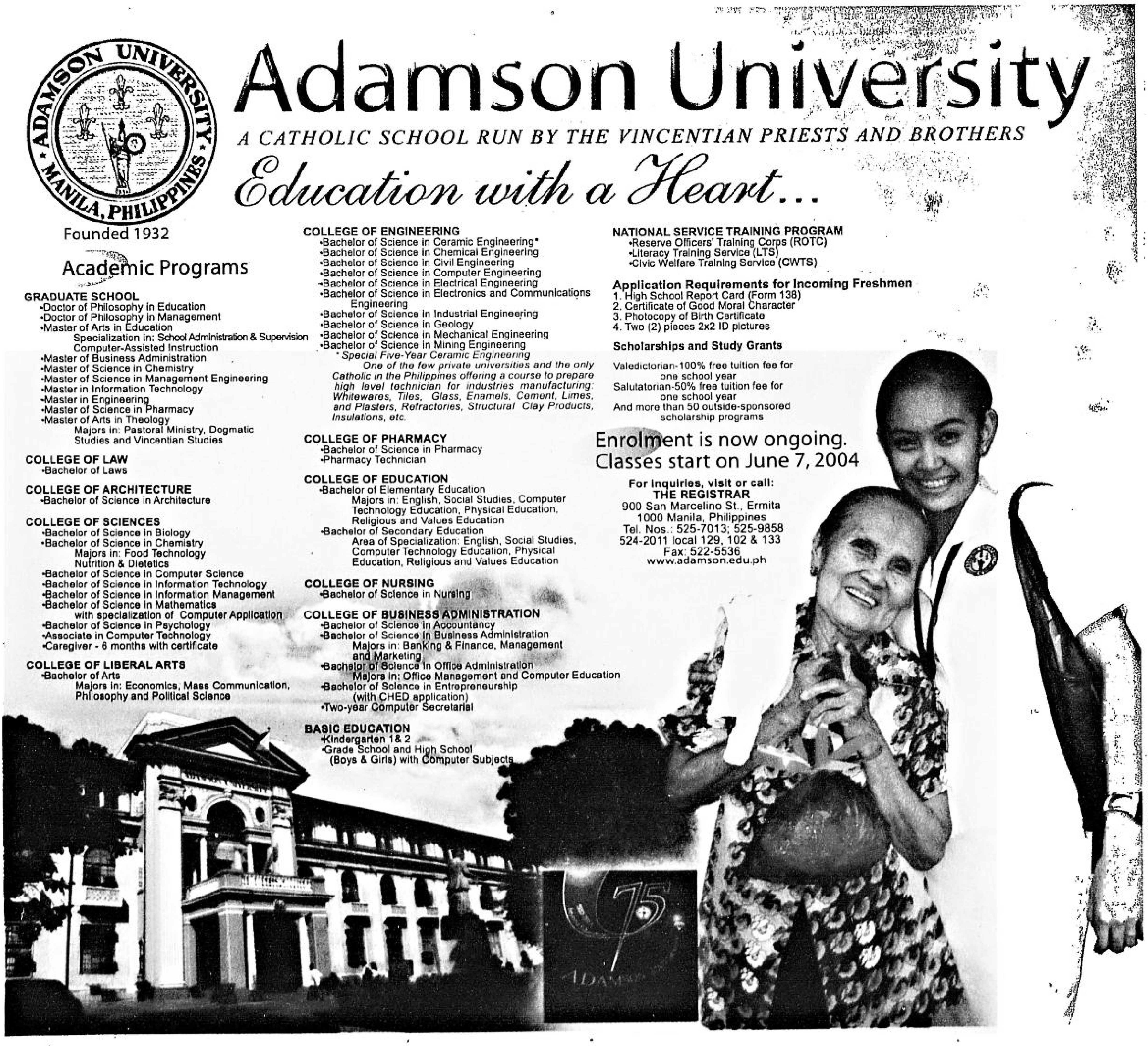

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

The 'cuaresma' of my youth

By Romel M. Oribe

BACK in the early '70s when I was a kid, *cuaresma* was observed with much solemnity and drama. The latter, of course, was literal because it meant just that—the drama or radio soap opera mostly about the passion of Christ.

Radio then was the ultimate entertainment as this was before television invaded our place in Tago, Surigao del Sur. But I never listened to this drama at home even if our Maharani quadrosonic stereo boomed and we had 7Ms bourbon and soda cracker biscuits for snacks because just as the dragon statue would turn real to fulfill the seer's prophesy that the king's sole heir would be snatched by a monster that spewed fire, my father would send me to buy Chesterfield.

Whew, the hazard of being the youngest! And so I had to sneak into our poor neighbor and lose myself, along with other children, in a verbally fascinating world purveyed by an Avegon transistor radio that whispered because it had weak batteries.

Earlier that week, our neighbor had these batteries alternately boiled and left under the sun for hours, but if the volume still wouldn't improve, he would wrap them with cigarette foil. Thus, my penitence would take the form of piecing together missed dialogues, enduring a cabal of smelly kids and jockeying for that place near the speaker that had Vilma Santos smiling in a face that seemed much rounder than a satellite dish.

The solemn part was ensured by Lola Pinang, Mama's aunt who lived with us until she died a virgin at the age of 68. She would instruct our helpers to hoard enough clean rice, water and firewood as they were not allowed to do manual labor during Holy Week.

We were not allowed to laugh from Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday just as we were banned from playing and drawing lines on the ground as we might slice up Christ's body. We had to walk slowly, on tiptoe if need be, as we might shake the house and the whole world and disturb the newly entombed Son of God.

Also, we were shunned from using pointed objects to avoid getting cut or wounded because it would take a year to heal, a phenomenon my cousin swore was true.

On Good Friday, we were barred from taking a bath as this was the time when not-like-ours would go bathing in streams and rivers. More chilling was the fact that they could bathe in water stocked in pails and basins without touching it, causing incurable skin disease should we have the misfortune of using it.

And Lola Pinang would add that since God was dead and therefore could not make them toe the line, the devil and all creatures of the netherworld would roam the earth to feed on us.

Spooked, we would line up as soon as Jesus died so that she could whip us with *pangyawan* vine. With its bitter sap on our bodies, she said, we would be spared because the devil and its cohorts didn't have a taste for something bitter.

Observing the much hated no-meat policy, we subsisted on fish that couldn't be grilled or fried because it would cause black spots to appear on our skin like we were rotten mangoes. And by way of fasting, we had nothing on Good Friday but my mother's *binignit* (*ginataang halo-halo*) with slices the size of my fist or *bodbod* the size of my thigh. This made me look forward to Easter Sunday when, as Protestants, we had sunrise service at the beach and potluck picnic and egg hunting.

That I stand 5'10" must be the result of Lola Pinang's making me jump at the stroke of midnight when Jesus walked out of the sepulchre, exactly three days (or so the Bible said) after the guards had made *ukay-ukay* of His garments. She said the higher I jumped, the taller I became. My cousin, who's now in the States, did the exact opposite because at 10, she was already 5'6".

Somehow I feel sad that these Filipino traditions are now dead and buried. But sentimental fool that I am, I look forward to the day when they will be resurrected for all they're worth. Meanwhile, I see people going to the beach to swim and pig out on food and wine as sounds blared from CD players on Good Friday, making me wish for all the bizarre things Lola Pinang said about cuaresma to come true, even just for once.

E-MAIL the author at romeloribe@yahoo.com

Those humpy-bumpy highways of Lanao del Sur

By Rex Godinez Ortega
Masiu, Lanao del Sur

IF YOU are a politician on the campaign trail and are about to hit the road in Lanao del Sur, be warned: prepare for a humpy-bumpy ride.

The reason? Concrete humps. Lots of them.

In a recent 40-kilometer drive from Marawi City to Masiu town, on the eastern side of Lake Lanao, we counted 60 concrete humps (and this without a subdivision in sight). That is like three humps for every two kilometers of the highway—the national highway, that is.

Most of these concrete humps tend to be located on a stretch of highway passing through a clump of houses or a town. They come in twos or threes and are usually placed five or 10 meters apart.

Concrete humps get the attention of motorists because they hurt both vehicle and its occupants when hit at high speed. Their purpose is clear: to discourage overspeeding.

And in this part of the province where highway patrolmen are like hen's teeth, there is an over-abundance of Schumachers and Andrettis zooming by in their jeepneys and fave FX vans.

In fact, they say the Maranao public transportation driver is a true blue speed demon. They like to overtake all the vehicles in front of them, overtake on curves, honk their horns, and terrify their passengers with their racing antics. They also tend to look very young.

With all these screaming through the highways on a daily basis, and with the authorities allegedly doing nothing about it, residents are taking the law and the highway construction work in their own hands by making all these concrete humps, all in an effort to avoid becoming a road kill for speeding motorists.

Farmer Kalid Alip, who lives along the highway in Masiu, said the concrete humps are there to prevent accidents because there have a been lot in the past.

"*Hindi natin sila masisi dahil maraming mga batang naglalaro sa daan* (We can't blame [the residents] because there are a lot of kids who play along the road)," he said.

Hitting pedestrians is, of course, an incident any motorist would like to avoid, but to hit a child on the highways of Lanao del Sur would indeed be catastrophic for him. And motorists here are aware of that.

Alip said the residents put up the amount needed to construct the concrete humps or a more moneyed member of the community, like a Sultan, shoulders the cost.

If no money is available, wooden humps are used. They are usually strips of a coconut tree trunk but they feel pretty much like the real thing, nonetheless.

Hump-making has become part of the people's "highway survival" culture, but many motorists are still concerned about the danger concrete humps pose to them and their passengers.

"If you don't see them on time you might lose control of your vehicle and, well ... you fly!" Bobby Timonera, a photojournalist who travels a lot, said.

"Those concrete humps can also damage your vehicle's suspension," he added.

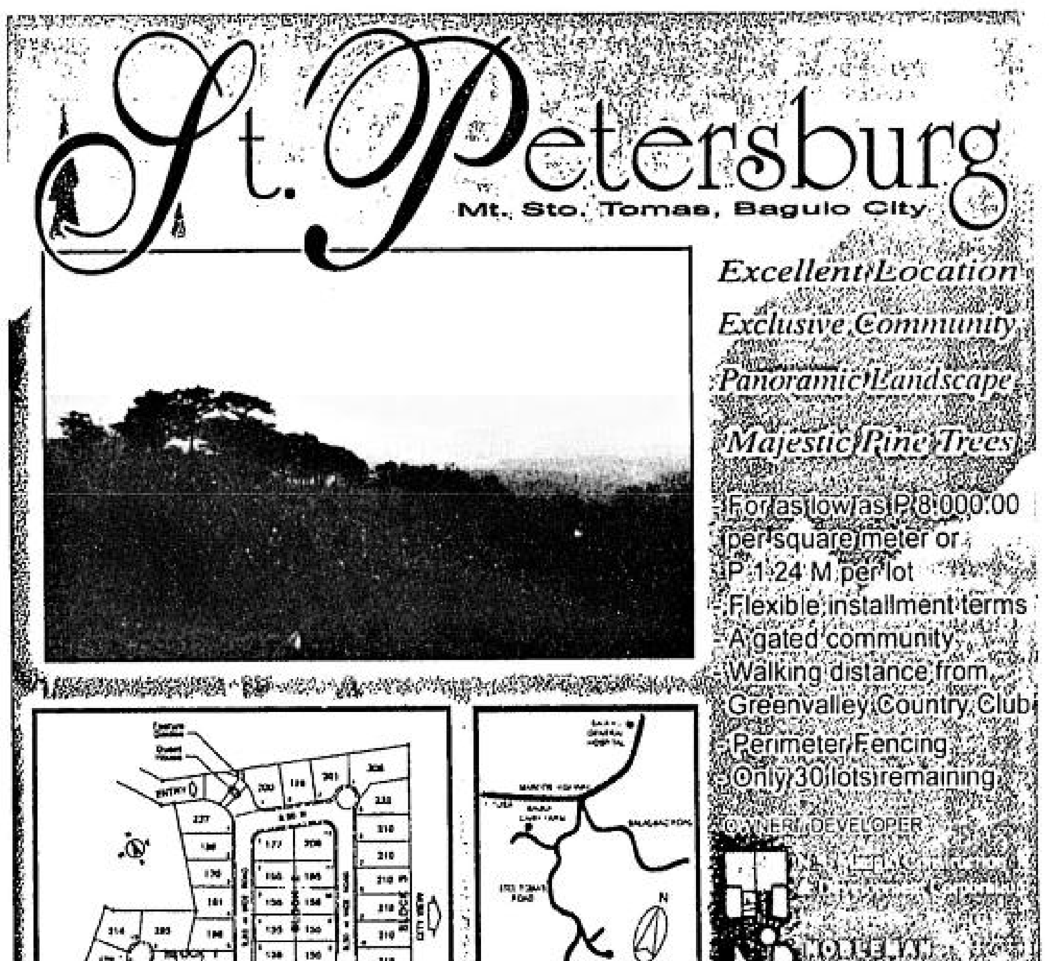
There is also evidence of some of these concrete humps being removed. This is usually the case near military detachments. Soldiers seem to dislike humps more than the average motorist. In fact, there is a story that may explain this.

Several years ago, an Army truck was racing through the highway on the western side of Lake Lanao carrying a wounded soldier in the back when it hit one of these concrete humps.

The wounded soldier fell out of the vehicle and as coup de grace—he died. Several other soldiers were also allegedly injured in that accident.

But soldier or not, if you're a motorist driving on the highways of Lanao del Sur, be prepared for a truly bumpy ride.

As one Maranao jeepney driver put it: "*Ay do, masakit!*"



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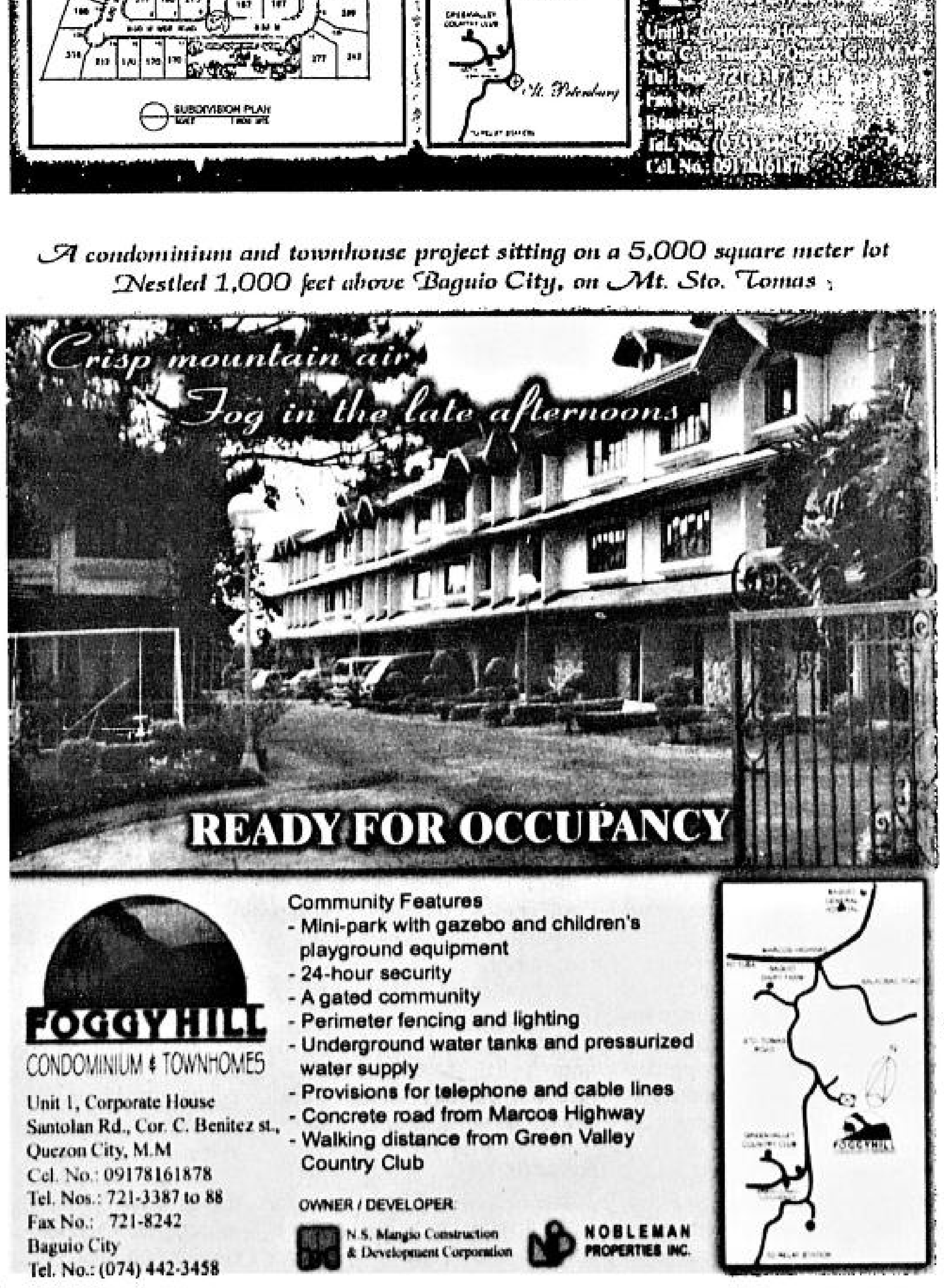

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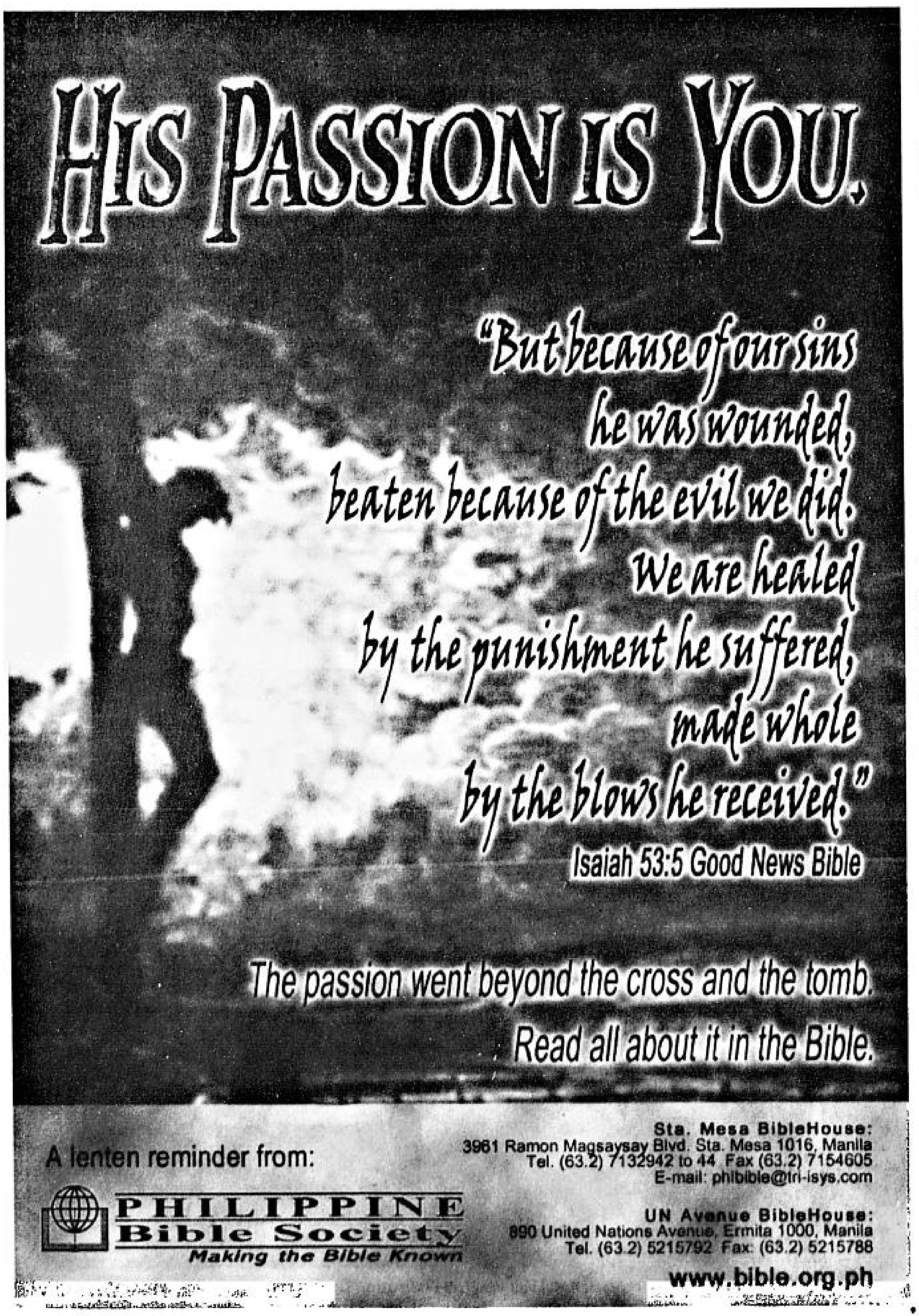

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RANDY HORMILLOSA

IT'S THAT time of year again when palms are selling briskly for the faithful to bring to churches today to be blessed and hung in their homes to ward off evil spirits throughout the year.

'Before true healing, we have to be wounded'

From page A1

Gibson's movie makes it clear that our own film's ending won't be as happy as that. As he winces and cringes in his seat as he watches Jesus being brutalized on the screen, the viewer realizes that he too must be wounded before he is truly healed.

To make sure that we don't miss his searing point, Gibson puts Jesus as played by Jim Caviezel through the wringer, having him tortured to within an inch of his life, humiliated to the core of his being, and debased to the level of inhumanity.

Some viewers object to this over-livid rendition, but a line taken from scriptures in the film's prologue says it all: "By His wounds, we are healed."

That's it: wounds, not mere bruises—deep and horrendously painful gashes that would make most men beg piteously for mercy. And yet Christ accepted the agony without protest, immolating Himself for mankind's sins.

Filmmaker's priority

Some people may see Gibson's approach as overly graphic, repetitive to the point of redundancy, and not very sophisticated. But the filmmaker's priority here isn't cinematic; it's nothing less than a dynamic renewal of Christian faith.

In this, "Passion" succeeds with power and distinction. Helping the production touch viewers' hearts to the quick is the instructive contrast it provides between its big religious and political set pieces and some warm initial vignettes that show Jesus, Mary and the apostles as "ordinary" people.

These intimate scenes make the institutional violence inflicted on Jesus all the more terrible to behold. They also enable the production to go beyond the pious niceties of the biblical "bathrobe dramas" of old, and make the New Testament relevant to our lives today.

Distractions

Despite the film's obvious strengths, some distractions intrude: The production's soundtrack and musical scoring are too busy and loud, disturbing the introspection needed for true spirituality to flower.

The constant use of the Devilish Presence, while thematically sound, is ultimately too arty and distracts from the integrity of the film's more natural and unselfconscious modes of presentation. Ditto for some of the visual effects employed at film's end.

Some touches are just too repetitive, like Christ being made to fall so many times on the road to Calvary.

A number of significant characters are too symbolically limned, so they don't come through empathetically as people. This makes the production veer from naturalism to symbolism in too jagged a manner.

On the other hand, "Passion" offers memorable visualizations, an expressive use of color, judicious selection of biblical passages relevant to the theme of Christ's self-sacrifice, and disarmingly empathetic depictions of the central characters of Jesus and Mary.

Charismatic performance

As Jesus, Caviezel focuses on his character's human side, coming up with a quietly charismatic performance. But he isn't above being terrified, tormented and pushed close to despair when he is at death's door.

For her part, Maia Morgenstern focuses on Mary's own maternal passion, as she watches her Son acting out the salvific drama that was plotted out for her more than three decades earlier. Both to her great sorrow and triumph, she acquiesces to the divine plan, no matter how it sunders her soul.

A great deal has been made, both positively and negatively, of Gibson's decision to intensify his film's defining sense of time and place by having his characters speak in the "dead" languages of Aramaic and Latin, with some English subtitles provided.

After viewing the finished film, we agree with Gibson's "risky" decision, because, strangely enough, the use of "dead" languages makes the film come uniquely alive.

In fact, there is a long series of sequences in which no English subtitles are employed, and communication and expression don't seem to be impeded, as the ancient languages draw viewers deeply into the seminal story the film is telling.

Gibson's faith

Over and above aesthetic considerations, however, "Passion" is a memorable viewing experience because it draws its vitality, not from Gibson's strengths as a filmmaker, but from a deeper source, all the way down to his heart and soul—his faith.

Only when taken on this elementally spiritual level can Gibson's film on Jesus be fully appreciated on its own terms. He did not set out to make his cinematic masterpiece, but to use the big screen and his clout as a film icon to vivify his Savior's life and sacrificial death as a necessary reminder for all forgetful and ungrateful men.

"Passion" urges us to be reminded, moved and transformed, to re-live Christ's life on earth not just in tribute to Him, but also in our lives. If we are thus moved, Gibson's daringly spiritual cinematic gambit shall have come out a winner, in the true sense of the word.

'Jesus Christ suffered, died so we don't have to'

From page A1

is faithful to the biblical story.

The inadequacy of our people's education in the faith will ensure that the distinction between the Bible as a "document of faith" and as a "document of fact" will escape most of them. And apart from a line or two casting Jews in a bad light in the "Pasyon" sung during Holy Week, we've never really had a history of anti-Semitism.

However, there is one criticism of the movie that might be worth considering as it begins its local run: It is exceedingly violent.

The scourging at the pillar which, ironically, was the most historical portrayal of Roman treatment of prisoners, was too brutal and lasted too long.

While most criticisms of the film's violence have been psychological, a sociological critique seems more appropriate for Filipinos.

The Filipino belongs to a poor nation where religion anchors most of life. While often regarded as a source of strength and hope, this same religion also results in an emasculating mentality of victimhood.

Lens of suffering

Many Filipinos can easily identify with Gibson's film, given our Hispanic blood-and-gore religion.

At the Edsa Shrine is a statue of Christ that looks like Jim Caviezel on the cross in "Passion." There's nothing beautiful or edifying about it: Not an inch is without scar.

But what Filipino will not identify with it, or fail to see himself through the lens of suffering and pain? Even our two most famous icons, the Nazareno and the Santo Entierro, reflect our identification with Christ weighed down by life.

The Philippine Holy Week is world-famous, not for its piety, but for its bloody flagellants and actual crucifixions that identify with pain in its most literal and physical extreme.

Missing the point

Filipino religiosity can make suffering appear as an end in itself, just as Gibson's obsession with pain misses the point of Christ's passion in the scriptures. It doesn't end in itself but leads inexorably to the resurrection.

Gibson's story leads to the dead Christ cradled by Mary. And while there is a resurrection scene at the end, it comes across almost as an afterthought, a mere footnote to the weightier experience of pain and dying.

Detached from the resurrection, the suffering and death of Christ becomes a tragedy. Worse, it does tremendous violence to the innate human capacity to rise above defeat.

Losers and defeatists can easily identify with "Passion," not out of piety, but from a deep lack of faith in themselves. Obsession with pain and suffering makes the resurrection a "pie in the sky," and religion, an "opiate of the masses."

But the resurrection isn't just about heavenly hope; it's a challenge to rise above earthly victimhood. Detached from the glory of Easter, the gore and death of Good Friday can be a most emasculating form of piety.

"Learned victimhood" is the greatest tragedy of Filipino religiosity. Religious leaders glorify it, calling it "humility" when they should call it by its real name: servility.

Public officials have an even more interesting spin to it: "You'll take whatever we give you, and like it, too."

Attitude of failure

Self-appointed messiahs promise the illusion of power, when genuine power is already in people, waiting only to be awakened. And poor Juan de la Cruz looks at the Nazareno or Santo Entierro and says "Amen" or "*Siya nawa* (So be it)." Centuries of being colonized have led him to imbibe the attitude of failure even before a fight, his religiosity centered on defeat masquerading as obedience to someone higher, whether it be God or a powerful and popular *amo*.

Juan de la Cruz needs to know that Christ suffered and died so he won't have to, and so he can know that he has now been empowered to change his life.

Genuine religiosity empowers. It doesn't weaken the knees. It makes one demand and fight for his rights and the rights of others.

It seizes power from a false image of God that has taken away one's backbone. And it restores that power where it rightly belongs, deep within oneself where, as St. Augustine says, the true God "dwells."

Would that as Filipinos flock to the movie theaters to watch "Passion," they will see it less as a story that ends in itself but as a challenge to realize that Christ suffered and died so that this tragedy will never happen again.

Then perhaps this society, the fourth most susceptible to corruption, can rise and regain its respectability in the community of nations as it says to the world, "Crucifixion never again!"

Empty seat, love song for missing ferry passenger

From page A1

an of his high school class during last Wednesday's ceremonies at the Integrated Developmental School (IDS) in Iligan City.

But Rodil wasn't there. Nor was his English teacher, Ms Daisy Atienza.

They were among 111 people believed to have perished in the Feb. 27 explosion and fire that ravaged the SuperFerry 14 near Manila Bay.

"I'm still hoping my Rodil will come back to us alive one day," Rodil's mother, Dr. Cynthia Filipinas, told the INQUIRER, still unable to accept her son's fate.

Had he survived the ferry disaster, Rodil would have had a good chance of being the class valedictorian, his family and some of his classmates said.

At the graduation ceremony, officials of the IDS, the laboratory high school of the MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology, reserved a seat for their high achieving student and placed a big framed picture of him and a white toga on the chair, his name on it.

The day before, during recognition day at the school gymnasium, IDS officials, teachers, relatives and classmates took turns in paying tribute to Rodil.

In a gesture of farewell, classmates sang "Rainbow."

Letter for Rodil

A recorded song sang by the their teacher, Atienza, was also played.

Rodil's classmates read out a letter they had written him, telling him how he was missed, and urging his mother to accept what had happened.

"I really felt that they loved my son and missed him," Rodil's mother said.

The honor and the many awards Rodil brought to IDS—coming from local, regional and national schools press conference competitions—were cited during the ceremonies.

Rodil's parents and brother, Cyril, climbed the stage to accept the plaques and the certificates of recognition.

They then placed the awards on his empty seat.

The plaques of recognition came from the IDS, the MSU-IIT Administration, the City Mayor's Office and the Department of Education.

Awards

The IDS named Rodil its Campus Journalist of the Year and recognized him as one of its 10 best researchers for his work on the effects of sponge extracts on the fertilization process and mitotic activity of fertilized eggs of sea urchins.

Rodil had also received the International Credit Award for correspondence in the Australian mathematics competition held at the University of Canberra.

Rodil, accompanied by his coach Atienza, had gone to the National Secondary Schools Press Conference held in Sta. Cruz, Laguna last Feb. 23.

They were on their way home on board the Superferry 14 when tragedy struck.

On the boat—apparently before the explosion rocked it—Rodil even called a classmate to say he had won at the national conference.

Flowers into the sea

He sounded ecstatic—he had captured first place in the oral communications competition and second place in the Tagisan ng Talino.

None of them knew that was the last time they would hear his voice.

"We were shocked but we still hoped that he would still be found alive," schoolmate Jerome Gomez said.

Classmates' memories of Rodil were of a bright boy who always smiled and laughed.

"A happy kid" was how Rachel Daigdigan described her long-time friend.

After the graduation ceremonies, the Filipinas family heard Mass on a beach and got on a boat.

Then they released white, red and yellow blossoms—roses and chrysanthemums—into the sea.

INTEGRA
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GRIEVING but proud parents of Rodil Filipinas and his brother Cyril receive one of his many awards (including class salutatorian) from guidance counselor Gloria Madulara.

METRO
E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

SUERTRES 3 0 4

SIX DIGIT (In exact order)

7 1 4 7 6 4

6/42 Luzon

3 16 27 35 36 42

Vis-Min

6 14 16 28 37 40

WPD tags sneaky robbery suspect

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE WESTERN Police District (WPD) said one of the six suspects who sneaked into the Prudential Bank and Trust Company on España, Manila, had previously been arrested for a robbery in Cavite.

Sr. Insp. Benjamin Reyes, head of the WPD Theft and Robbery Section, yesterday said that an employee of the Souvenir Lodge, which the suspects used as a jumping board for the robbery, identified the suspects from the police's rogues' gallery.

The suspect, whose name was withheld pending follow-up operations, was arrested in Manila earlier for a robbery in Cavite. Reyes said the man was a member of one of several bolt cutter gangs operating in and out of Metro Manila.

Photographs

"We have identified one of the suspects through photographs shown to the lodge's staff," Reyes said in a phone interview.

Reyes said the Souvenir Lodge employee told police that the man she pointed to was one of six men who checked into the said lodge at around 6 p.m. on Thursday. The men had each rented a room for 12 hours.

The suspects entered the Prudential Bank, which was adjacent to the lodge at the corner of España and Vicente Cruz, by cutting a hole on the ceiling of one of the lodge's rooms.

The robbers then cut another hole on the bank's roof before going into the bank via a bathroom window.

ON BELMONTE'S ORDERS

QC goes easy in anti-vending drive

By Tina Santos

FEARING sabotage from his own men amid the election campaign, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte has ordered that all anti-vending drives be cleared with him first.

In a phone interview, Belmonte said he had ordered the QC Department of Public Order and Safety (DPOS) to secure a clearance from him first before going after illegal vendors in the city.

The mayor, who is seeking reelection in May, affirmed that the move was election-related.

"I don't want them to embarrass me," the mayor said, explaining that "most people from DPOS *are bata ni* (people of former mayor Mel) Mathay.

Belmonte then cited Mario Sanchez, DPOS assistant division head, as one of those whom he perceived as leaning towards Mathay, who is again seeking the mayoralty seat.

"*Kung 'di lang naman election* (Had it not been for the elections) I would trust them to do their jobs, but it's election time, *mahirap na* (I don't want to take any chances)," the mayor added.

But while Belmonte only instructed the DPOS to clear their operations with him, several officers from the department are saying a different thing.

"Right now, all our operations have been suspended," one of the officers said, referring to the demolition of structures erected by squatters, and the clearing of illegal vendors.

The officer stressed, "We have no choice but to comply with the order," adding that they were now focusing more on traffic management.

Manuel Sabalza, head of the DPOS, denied that there was an instruction for them to halt the anti-sidewalk vending drive because of the elections.

"There was no such thing (order to stop). In fact, we've been conducting sidewalk clearing operations daily," Sabalza said.

Mario Sanchez, DPOS assistant division head, meanwhile, admitted that they were now "somewhat deliberate in conducting operations."

Flood control affected

"But this is because we have yet to facilitate a complete and solid action plan for them (vendors). This is not election-related," he insisted.

But DPOS officers interviewed by the INQUIRER insisted that even the flood-control program, which was supposed to start during the summer, had also been suspended because of the elections.

The program entails the demolition of squatter shanties along esteros and other waterways.

"We were told to just resume with such operations after the elections on May 10," another source disclosed.

Vendors are back

A check made by the INQUIRER showed that throngs of illegal vendors had returned to areas along Commonwealth Avenue, Philcoa and Cubao.

Most of the hawkers in these areas are believed to be QC residents living in one of the many depressed communities in the city.

Earlier, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority under Chair Bayani Fernando expelled the vendors from these areas.

However, Fernando announced that they were pulling out of the anti-vending drive weeks into the election campaign period.

HORSE THOUGHTS

The driver of this calesa found another use for a campaign sticker by turning it into a sunshade for his horse. RANDY HORMILLOSA

MMDA says operators' demands are abusive

By Margaux Ortiz

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) shot down the request of a group of bus operators to scrap its major traffic projects, including the No Contact Traffic Apprehension Program.

In a memorandum to Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo, MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said the suggestions presented by the bus operators "may only have come from insensitive and abusive minds from the public sector."

Overpass, underpass

Apart from scrapping the No Contact Apprehension Program, the bus operators are also requesting that their units be given the option to pass through overpasses and underpasses on Edsa.

The operators also asked for the suspension of the impounding of bus units.

Lacuna said that the MMDA already gave buses exclusive use of Edsa's yellow lane.

"Now they also want the exclusive use of another lane by passing through the overpasses and underpasses," Lacuna said.

He added, "We feel that giving way to the proposal would already be tantamount to giving them exclusive use of Edsa."

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios echoed Lacuna's sentiment.

Coding suspension

Vergel de Dios said that because of the suspension of the number coding on Edsa, the yellow lane has been congested with additional bus units.

"These operators demanded that the number coding be lifted so they could deploy their extra units," Vergel de Dios said. "Now they want an extra lane because the yellow lane is apparently not enough for them."

Vergel de Dios stressed that the agency was mandated to arrest and impound erring bus units, especially colorum and out-of-line vehicles.

METROBRIEFS

3 fall in buy bust

FILIPINO-CHINESE businessman Antonio "Tony" Ong, alias "Kimpee," 23, of Ongpin Street, Binondo, Manila, was arrested with his girlfriend, Rose Anne Candor, 23, a businesswoman, of Tomas Mapua Street, Manila, and friend Marivic Andog, 24, a saleslady, of Sto. Niño Street, Pasay City, during a buy bust operation at the Hap Chan Restaurant in Monumento, Caloocan, at 9 a.m. yesterday. Northern Police District director Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr. said three bags containing almost 600 grams of shabu were seized from them. *Tina Santos*

Anti-piracy drive

THE POLICE confiscated 15 sacks of pirated compact discs and video compact discs, and some 2,000 copies of pornographic tabloids in a raid conducted on sidewalks and public markets in the Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela area on Friday. The operation was a joint effort of the District Intelligence and Investigation Division, the District Police Intelligence Unit and the four local police stations, Northern Police District Office director Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr. said. *Tina Santos*

Deadly relief

BAYANI Novelo, 36, paid dearly for relieving himself on the wall of the Ocean Link Company in Tondo, Manila late Friday night. Novelo, a pedicab driver from Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, was reportedly shot to death by security guard Ricardo Dilan, of the 3rd Alert Security Agency and assigned at the Ocean Link Company in Del Pan. *Leila Salaverria*

Don't fall victim to burglars, police warn

GO AHEAD, take a break. But be sure to leave your homes safe from burglars while you are away.

This is the advice of National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Ricardo de Leon to Metro Manila residents who are planning to go out of town during the long holiday next week.

De Leon said criminal elements, particularly burglars, take advantage of the occasion, knowing that many residents in the metropolis leave their homes unattended during this period.

"As much as possible, don't leave your house unattended. Have somebody look after it," the NCRPO director stressed.

If no one could be asked to look after a home, De Leon suggested to owners to coordinate with their barangay officials and seek the conduct of regular patrols around their homes.

In Manila, Western Police District spokesperson Gerry Agunod reminded residents to make sure that their windows and doors are locked before they leave.

He added that people should unplug all electrical appliances or even turn off the main power switch to avoid overheating and fire accidents while they are away.

De Leon said he already ordered the deployment of policemen to coordinate with civilian security personnel for the conduct of visibility patrols in barangays and subdivisions.

At the same time, the NCRPO chief also assured the safety and security of motorists and commuters.

"We will provide assistance to motorists and commuters by conducting intensified security patrols, and providing assistance along major thoroughfares leading to and from summer destinations," De Leon said, adding that they would also ensure the smooth flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

He added that security measures are also in place in various strategic areas, such as bus terminals, government agencies, malls and other densely populated areas. *Tina Santos and Leila Salaverria*

Manila PLEB doubles cases heard, solved

By Tarra Quismundo

THE PEOPLE'S Law Enforcement Board of Manila resolved more than double the number of cases filed against policemen in 2003 compared to 2002.

A PLEB report released Friday showed that the board resolved 154 more cases in 2003 than it did in 2002.

From resolving only 139 cases two years ago, the board resolved 353 complaints against policemen in the past year.

PLEB Executive Director Emmanuel Florendo attributed this to the training that the board's members went through in February last year, through the help of the Manila City government and the assumption of Tessie Ang-See as board chair.

PLEB is a quasi-judicial body that hears administrative cases against law enforcers, who have in any way abused civilians.

The Manila board has six districts, each with a five-member board which decides on cases of abuse or misbehavior of policemen.

Commonly, the PLEB receives cases of abuse of authority, illegal detention and extortion.

RESCUE
RESCUE
RESCUE

ON THE LINE

A rescue team of the Air Force demonstrates its skills by 'saving' a man from the 53rd floor of the Pacific Plaza Towers inside the Bonifacio Global City. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Workers to seek wage hike

AMID the rising prices of goods and the increase in transport fares, the militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) said its members would stage a nationwide strike in May to press for a P125 wage increase.

KMU chair Elmer Labog said their decision to hold the strike was reached during a recent meeting of the union's national council.

Labog said union leaders affiliated with the KMU from Northwestern Luzon, Southern Luzon, Bicol, Negros, Panay, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao vowed to participate in the strike.

"The need for an urgent wage relief is overwhelming. We need an actual response to our demands as soon as possible," Labog said.

The P30 emergency cost-of living allowance granted in 2001 was no longer sufficient to meet their needs, Labog stressed.

"The actual value of the P250 daily minimum wage in (Metro Manila) is only a little more than P200. The national daily cost-of-living now amounts to P593," the labor group leader lamented. *Tina Santos* portrait #7

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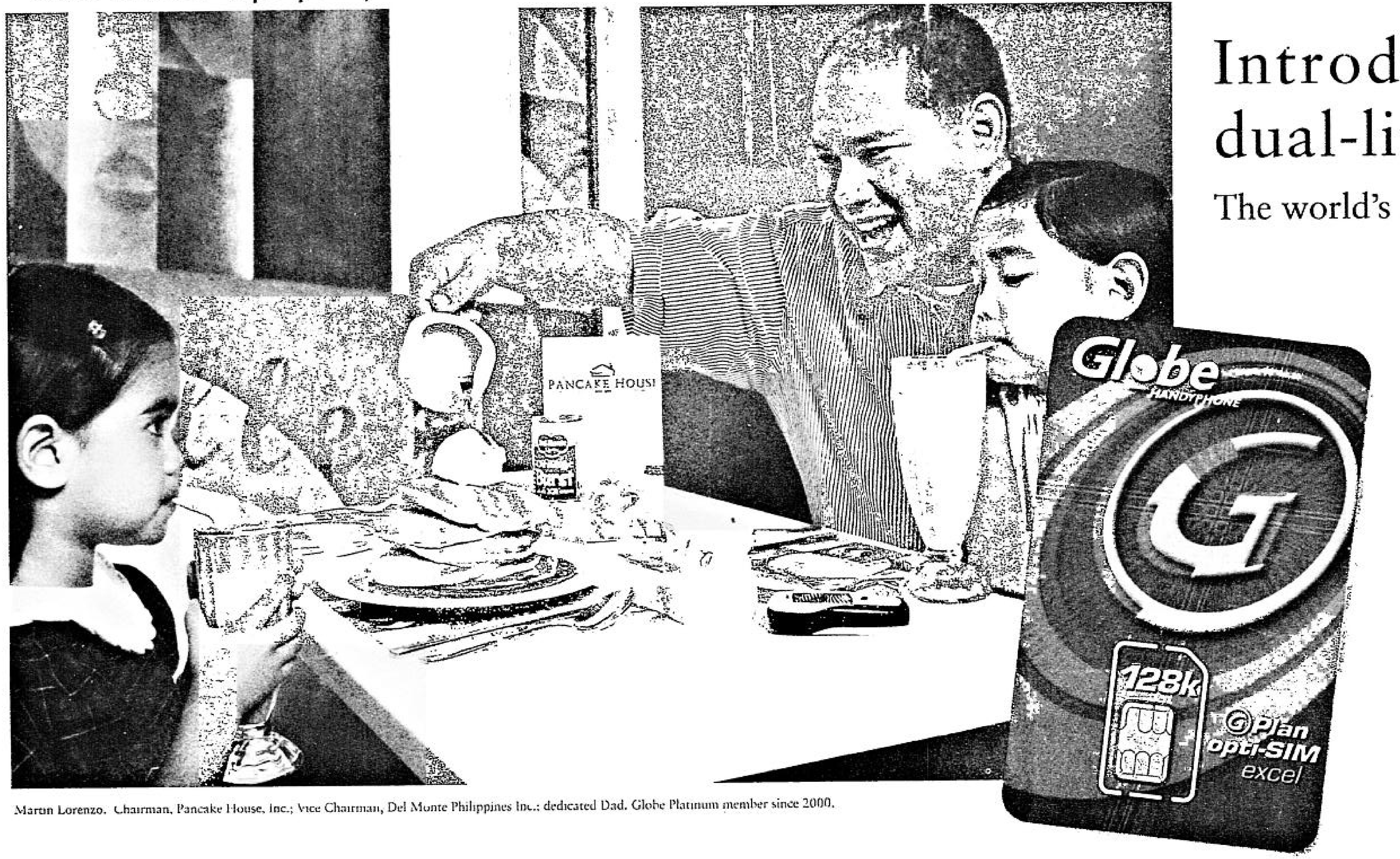

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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix Qualifying; 11 a.m. (r); Race Day: 6:30 p.m.; Star Sports—Michael Schumacher goes for his third straight win in as many races.

BASKETBALL: US NCAA Final Four-Georgia Tech vs Oklahoma State; 7 a.m. (r-3 p.m.); Duke vs UConn; 9 a.m. (r-5 p.m.); Solar Sports—The Yellow Jackets take on the Cowboys while the Blue Devils tangle with the Huskies in San Antonio, US College Basketball's premier event.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Sta. Lucia beats undermanned Shell

PBA sets 3 conditions for Lipa

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Alaska vs FedEx
6:30 p.m.—Ginebra vs Talk 'N Text

By June Navarro

WITHOUT Ronald Tubid and Chris Calaguio, the Shell Turbochargers couldn't get their fiery game going.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

STA. LUCIA'S Derrick Brown slam dunks.

Sta. Lucia Realty capitalized on the situation as the Realtors defeated the Turbochargers, 100-92, last night in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Philsports Arena.

The usually explosive Tubid sat out the entire game nursing a left ankle injury while Calaguio, the Turbochargers' top scoring local, came in plain clothes after hurting his leg during their conquest of the Barangay Ginebra Kings a week ago.

Sans Tubid and Calaguio, the Turbochargers were denied an average of at least 35 points and seven rebounds, allowing the Realtors to wrap up the first round with a 2-7 record.

Compounding matters for the Turbochargers was the absence of playmaker Kalani Ferreria, who rode the bench the entire second half due to a strained left foot.

Rensy Bajar effectively quarterbacked for the Turbochargers but the Realtors, reeling from a shameful defeat at the hands of the FedEx Express, relentlessly pummeled them inside the paint.

"My team realized that we played bad against FedEx and I'm glad that they did everything possible on both ends of the floor to recover from that loss," said Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfrancis Chua.

Dennis Espino brushed aside a hurting back and came up with 25 points and nine rebounds while Marlou Aquino, an eye sore in rebounding the last eight games, rediscovered his aggressiveness in the shaded lane.

Prior to the game, the 6-foot-9 Aquino averaged just 5.6 rebounds in 37 minutes per outing.

Last night, Aquino made amends, pulling down 11 rebounds, five of them offensive in 40 minutes of action.

In the nightcap, Mark Sanford had 37 points and 13 rebounds, including six of Coca-Cola's last eight points, to lead the Tigers to a 107-102 victory over the Red Bull Barakos.

STA. LUCIA/ A26

URBL taps Fernandez as its first commish

RAMON Fernandez returns to the basketball scene as commissioner of the newly formed United Regional Basketball League.

The four-time PBA MVP and former commissioner of the defunct Metropolitan Basketball Association agreed to assume the post after being oriented with URBL's provincial-based and grassroots development concept.

Fernandez, acknowledged as one of the country's best players ever, believes that the URBL will be able to develop young players from the countryside as well as provide an avenue for players on the comeback trail.

"The URBL is not the MBA. But I believe the regional concept being relived will help grassroots development and regenerate basketball interest throughout the country," said Fernandez.

As a stock corporation, each URBL franchise will gain a seat on the Board of Governors, allowing team owners direct participation in league affairs. On top of the board seat, each owner will receive stock certificates to guarantee their participation within the corporation, thus assuring that all league revenues will be shared equally among the pioneering members.

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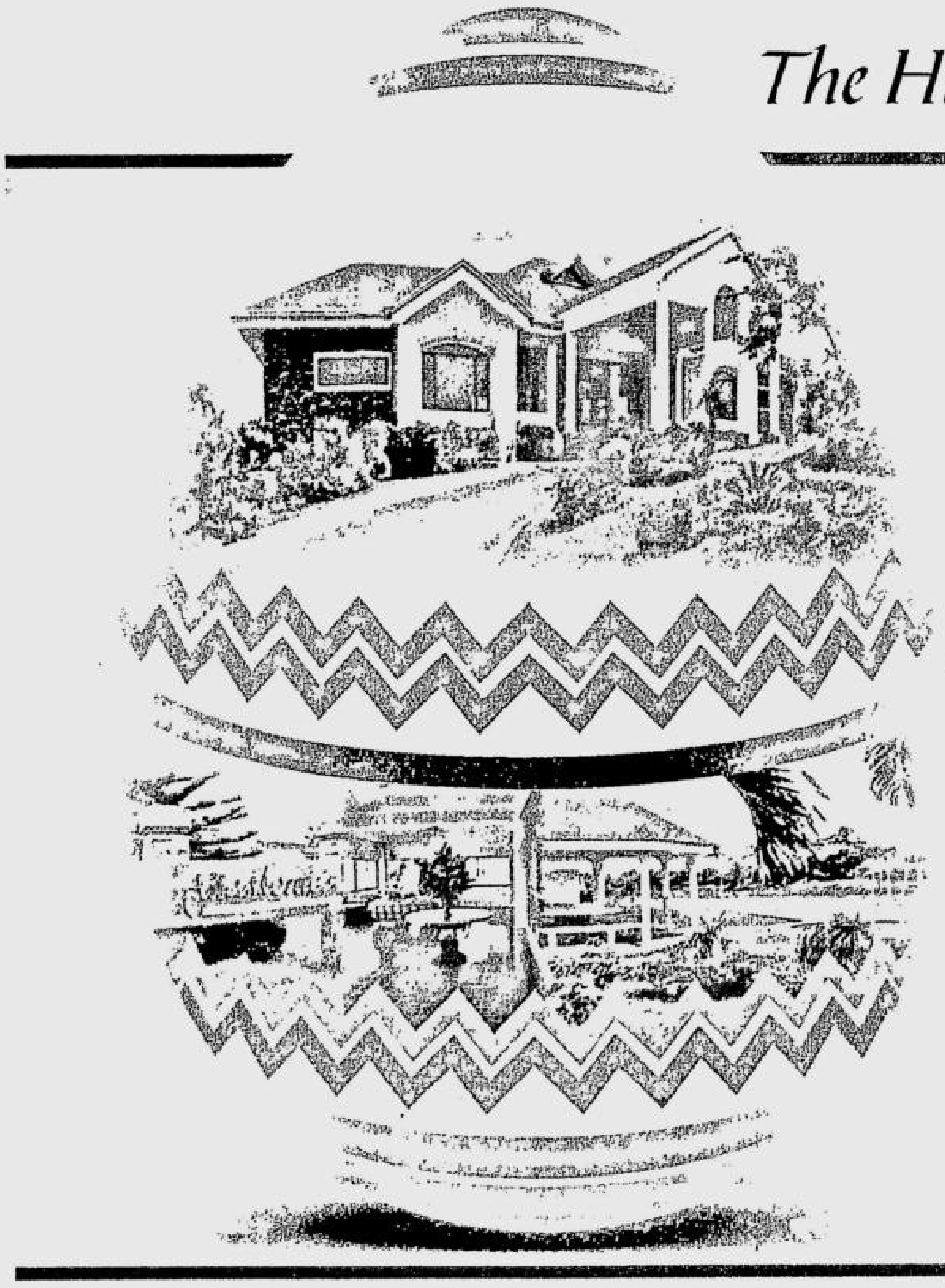

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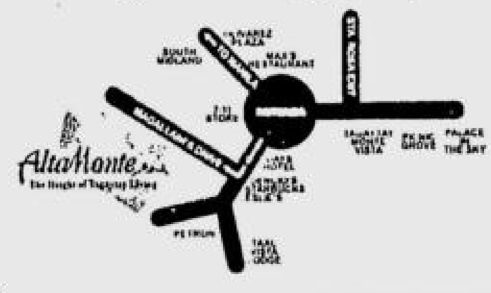

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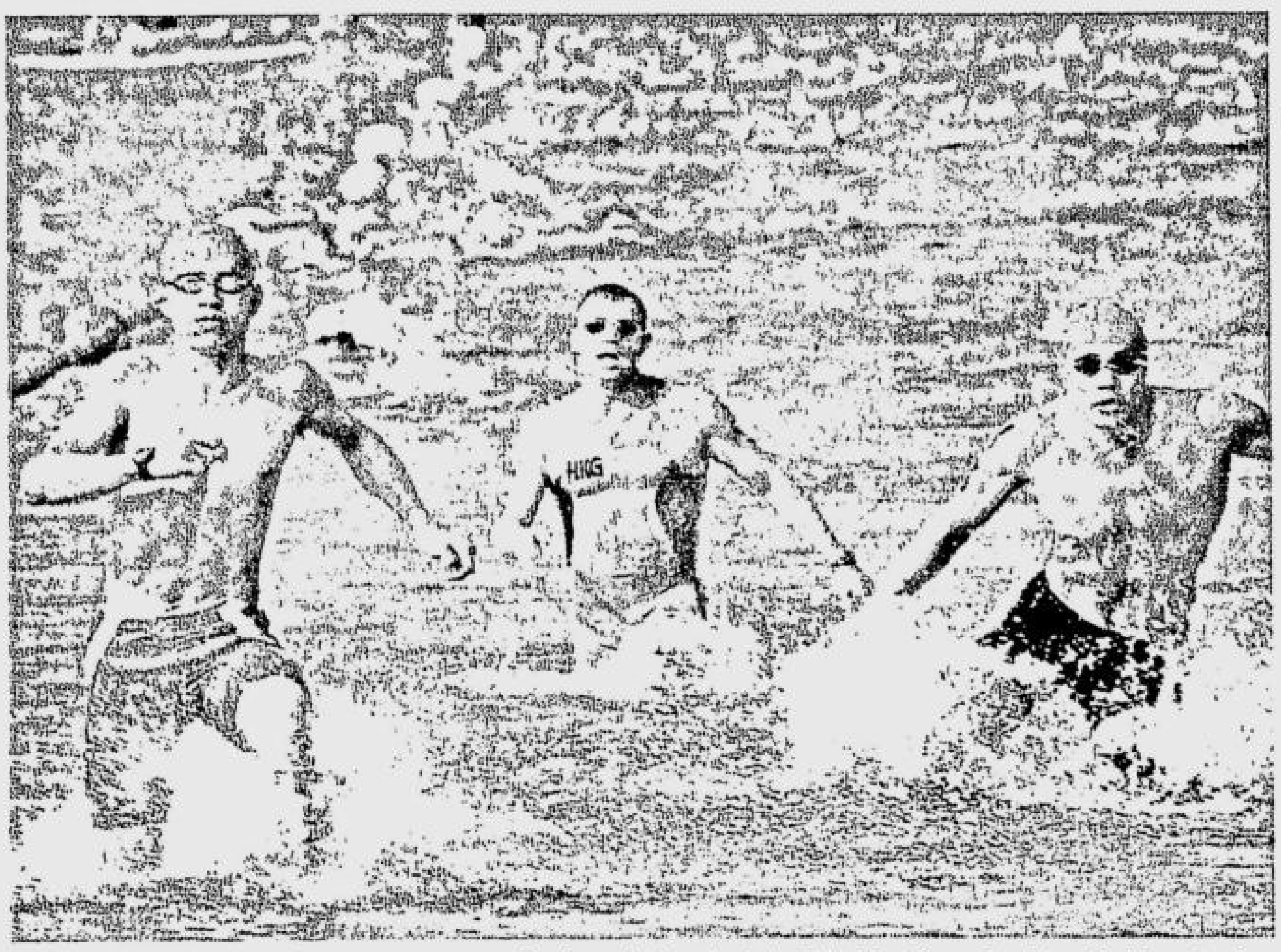


PARTICIPANTS of the male age group race to the shore during the Asian Triathlon Championship at Subic yesterday. Japanese bets dominated the competition, sweeping the Elite Under-23 men's and women's events. ROMY HOMILLADA

Japanese bets rule Asian triathlon tilt

By Trina Ibarle

SUBIC—Powerhouse Japan lived up to expectations and swept the top three slots in both the Elite Under-23 men's and women's events yesterday in the Speedo 2004 Asian Triathlon Championships at the Subic Bay Freeport.

Yuichi Hosoda clocked 1:56:57 to triumph in the men's Under-23 at the expense of compatriots Kenji Umatate and Sho Higashino, who settled for second and third place with 2:01:13 and 2:02:07, respectively.

On the distaff side, 22-year-old Eri Nakagawa scored a come-from-behind victory in the Under-23 championship with a time of 2:11:16, relegating fellow Japanese Ai Ueda (2:12:55) and Keiko Tanaka (2:19:16) to second and third in the event organized by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines and hosted by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

A first-timer in the Under-23 category, Hosoda set the pace throughout the 1.5K swim-40K bike-10K run. The 19-year-old Tokishima native is ranked 11th in Japan's national standings.

"It was a good race. I saw that I could win, since there was no pressure because the others were a long way behind me," said Hosoda.

Nakagawa was only third out of the water, but outstripped erstwhile pacesetters Caini Quin of China and fellow Japanese Satomi Okouichi during the first loop of the bike leg and kept the lead till the end.

Meanwhile, national champion Sandra Araullo bucked stomach cramps during the second loop of the 10K run to clinch seventh-place in the women's Under-23 with a 2:27:58 clocking, surpassing the Philippine record of 2:31 held by national cyclist Kaye Lopez.

The Philippines placed third in the women's event with Alexandra Ganzon and Anna Balagosa combining with Araullo's best finish on an 8:15:28 time behind Japan and Singapore.

The local men's team, with John Mark Yamoyam ending up at 21st place with 2:14:27 in the Under-23. Yamoyam, Sean Lim and Francis Mercado combined for a 7:04:44 finish behind Japan, Hong Kong, Uzbekistan and Singapore.

In the Asian Age Group Competition, Mauricio de Carvalho and Karen Lui of Hong Kong clinched the men's and women's championships.

INT'L JUNIOR TENNIS

Briton, Indian forge final duel

A BRITON and an Indian will clash for the boys' crown of the 15th Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis Championships.

Ninth seed Tom Rushby of Great Britain capitalized on his deadly forehand to oust No. 4 William Ward of New Zealand, 6-1, 6-2, to arrange a final showdown with No. 7 Tushar Liberhan of India, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3, conqueror of No. 11 Jamie Murray of Great Britain at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The 17-year-old Rushby, who won a tournament in Malaysia two weeks ago, fired six aces to beat world No. 30 Ward and set up the final duel with Liberhan, India's No. 2 junior player.

"I'm fit, I'm fast and I've been playing pretty well. I didn't miss many shots today," said Rushby, who reached the quarterfinals last year. He is currently No. 47 in the ITF Juniors but was No. 40 two weeks ago.

Rushby, ranked No. 3 in the juniors back home, expects a tough final match against Liberhan, who won the singles and doubles titles in a Group 2 tournament in New Delhi two months ago.

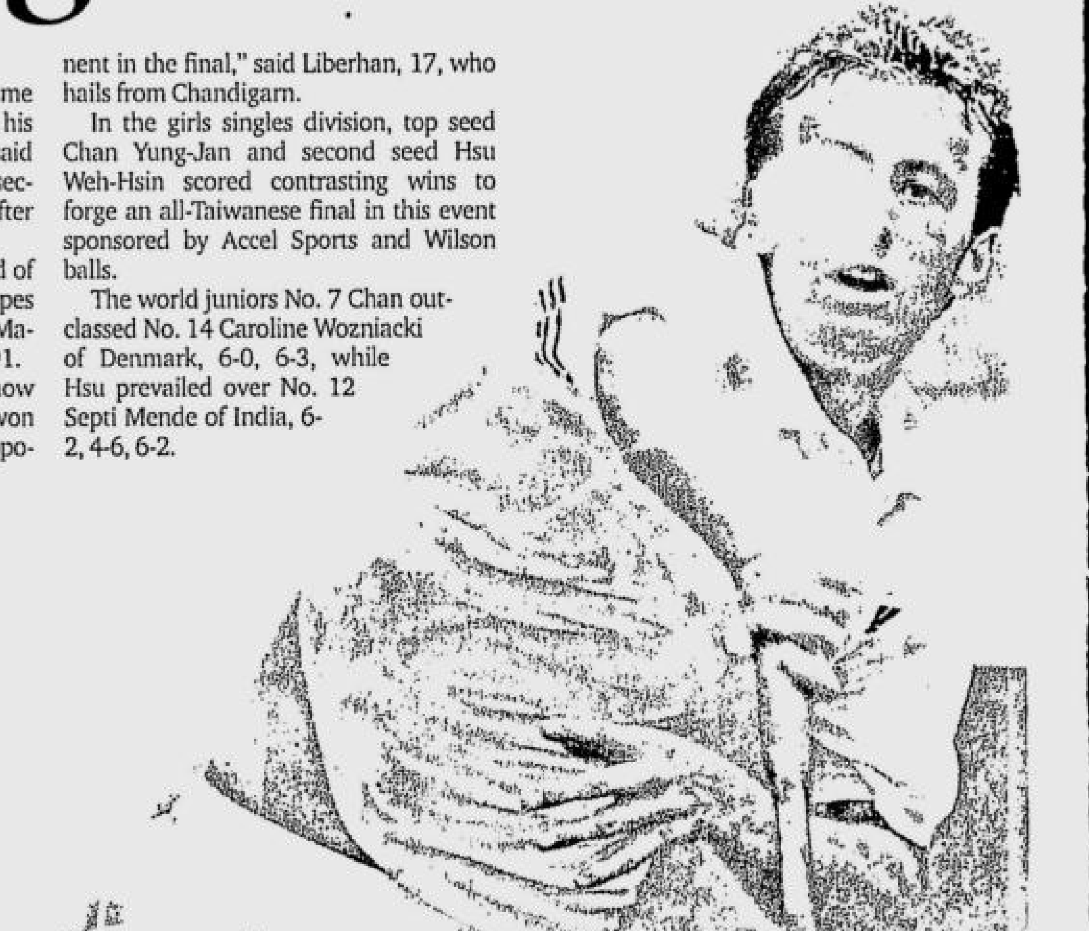
"Beating the top seed has given me more confidence. But every player has his own game so I have to be prepared," said Rushby, who will try to become the second Briton to win this Group 1 event after Martin Lee in 1995.

Liberhan, who lost in the first round of this year's Australian Open Juniors, hopes to follow the footstep of compatriot Mahesh Bhupati, who won the title in 1991.

"I'll try my best to win the title. I know that Rushby is a very good player, he won in Malaysia and he will be a tough opponent in the final," said Liberhan, 17, who hails from Chandigarn.

In the girls singles division, top seed Chan Yung-Jan and second seed Hsu Weh-Hsin scored contrasting wins to forge an all-Taiwanese final in this event sponsored by Accel Sports and Wilson balls.

The world juniors No. 7 Chan outclassed No. 14 Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark, 6-0, 6-3, while Hsu prevailed over No. 12 Septi Mende of India, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2.



RUSHBY returns a volley by Ward during their semifinal match in the Mitsubishi-Lancer International Juniors Tournament yesterday. Rushby won, 6-1, 6-2. ERNIE U SARMIENTO

Hapee, Sunkist share PBL lead

HAPEE Toothpaste and Sunkist-UST thumped separate foes yesterday to forge a four-way tie for the lead in the Philippine Basketball League Unity Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The defending champion Teeth Sparklers repulsed the end-game rally of Lee Pipes-Ateneo, 79-71, while the Tigers subdued the Jewels, 76-68.

Hapee and Sunkist now tote 2-0 (win-loss) cards, same as idle Welcoat Paints and Viva Mineral Water-Far Eastern U.

Viva defeated BluStar Detergents, 83-76, while Welcoat clobbered newcomer Toyota Otis-Letran, 76-69, on Thursday.

Ateneo and Montaña have yet to pierce the winner's column after two outings.

Hapee saw a 20-point spread whittled down to just nine in the last two minutes as former teammate and now Lee Pipes guard Lewis Alfred Tenorio canned three of his five rainbow shots.

Though time was not on Ateneo's side, it was enough to shake the knees of Coach Junel Baculi, who mobilized his demolition squad of Francis Albert Mercado, Eugene Tan, Jeff Napa, Ollan Omiping and Mark Macapagal to stave off the rally.

Mercado, a 6-foot-5 center, contributed 21 points and four rebounds while rookie Reed Friar Juntilla added 12 markers, three rebounds, an assist and a steal for Hapee.

Tenorio shone for Ateneo with 20 points, six rebounds, nine assists and four steals.

Jemal Vizcarra showed the way for Sunkist-UST as he scored 18 points and added two rebounds and one assist.

Scores:

HAPEE 79- Mercado 21, Juntilla 12, Macapagal 11, Moore 10, Mendoza 7, Napa 6, Oreta 6, Dualan 4, Tan 2, Dy 0, Cordero 0, Omiping 0.

LEE PIPES 71- Tenorio 20, Intal 14, Gelig 12, Domingo 10, Fonacier 6, Del Rosario 6, Manalo 3, Kramer 0, Elmido 0, Membrere 0, Cruz 0, Escalona 0.

Quarters: 23-16, 39-30, 61-43, 79-71

Sta. Lucia . . .

From page A25

The Tigers moved into a tie with Alaska and Talk 'N Text at 5-3, while the Barakos absorbed their third loss in seven games.

Meanwhile, PBA Commissioner Noli Eala has set three conditions for new FedEx head coach and RP 20-and-under mentor Joe Lipa to follow. Eala said Lipa's case should not set a precedent and that the 59-year-old veteran mentor must severe his ties with the national team after the SEABA championships in September.

"Lastly, if the SEABA coincides with the PBA, Lipa must file a leave of absence from the FedEx ballclub," added Eala.

Scores:

STA. LUCIA 100—Brown 33, Espino 25, Aquino 10, Francisco 9, Cuan 8, Omolon 7, Victolero 6, Gonzales 2.

SHELL 92—Dela Cruz 25, Ondera 22, Hrabak 16, Bajar 15, Ferreria 4, Alvarez 3, Mamaril 3, Marzan 2, Jackson 2.

Quarters: 22-13, 50-37, 77-64, 100-92.

Paragua still No. 1

INTERNATIONAL Master Mark Paragua is still the Philippines' top chess player.

Paragua, the most bemedalled Filipino athlete in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games, was given an Elo rating of 2529 by the International Chess Federation, keeping his lead over GMs Joey Antonio (2523) and Eugene Torre (2521).

Arizona-based IM Rogelio "Banjo" Barcenilla and Europe based Fide Master Joseph Sanchez improved on their ratings released April 1.

Barcenilla increased his rating from 2503 to 2507 with six games played while IM-candidate Sanchez raised his rating from 2450 to 2453. *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

RP's top players as of April 1.

1. IM Mark Paragua (ELO 2529), 2. GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr. (2523) 3. GM Eugenio "Eugene" Torre (2521), 4. IM Rogelio "Banjo" Barcenilla (2507), 5 GM Buenaventura "Bong" Villamayor (2469), 6-7 FM Joseph Sanchez (2453), Emmanuel Senador (2453), 8. IM Enrique Paciencia (2449), 9. IM Idelfonso Datu (2449), 10. IM Richard Bitoon (2430), 11. IM Ronald Dableo (2426).

Height of barbarity

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IMAGINE yourself getting invited to a gathering. First, by a telephone call. Next, by a written invitation to formalize the verbal invitation through the phone call.

"I'd like the invitation to be formal," the invitee would normally tell you.

Usually, you notice a happy lilt in the voice at the other end of the line. You smile.

"You will receive an invitation in writing," the caller would end the conversation.

You feel proud getting invited.

You feel you belong, are important.

You promise yourself to honor the invitation.

But, for one reason or another, you won't be able to attend. Either a previous commitment will come in the way, or you are too ill to be able to travel.

Stretching it further, maybe you do not want to see a guest who, you are that sure, is also going to get invited. You do not want to see that guest because either that guest is too loud for you or has a middle initial that starts with the letter O. O as in obnoxious.

So in short, you aren't going. When in doubt, don't. Better safe than sorry.

But because you value the invitation, if not the person who sent the invitation, you will try your best to find a solution to the problem.

You will call-in sick?

Not a good idea. Especially if you are not really that sick.

You will "text" your host to say you couldn't come because of a prior commitment.

Sounds good, but a better solution could be found other than that.

Ah, this should be it: Send someone to represent you.

The best!

Don't we sometimes send our own family members, if not dear friends, to a party if we couldn't make it?

How many times have I been represented in weddings and baptisms because of reasons beyond my control?

Have I not represented my own parents (when they were still around) in occasions that they could not attend for one reason or another?

Very Filipino, indeed. As Filipino as the *Pandanggo sa Ilaw*.

But comes now this report a while back that some guys calling themselves members of the so-called "super body" in basketball had driven away two representatives sent by the top brass of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) to attend a meeting called for by said members of the "super body."

This, after the BAP had received a written invitation to attend said meeting.

How a group supposedly composed of people steeped in sportsmanship could do such dastardly act is beyond me.

One report in a newspaper even said the two emissaries were shooed away even before "they could finish eating their *merienda cena*." If true, that'd be the height of barbarity.

No wonder that all along, the BAP has not been taking the men behind the so-called "super body" seriously. When it tried to, it got the boot.

And all along these members of the so-called "super body" had been harking about unification in Philippine basketball? You call kicking out representatives of your invited guests unification?

C'mon, give us a break.

***

FASTBREAK. Happy birthday to Chairman Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission, who is celebrating today by playing host to my fellow sportswriters to a golf tournament in Calatagan. Thank you for inviting me, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to play but my two nephews, Tanya and Luigi, are also celebrating today. I just couldn't say no to the kids and I'm sure you will understand. Many kids do adore me and one way of returning the favor to them is do my damnedest to grace occasions of special meaning to them, like a birthday bash. Let me also take this opportunity to greet GMA an advance happy birthday; Ate Glo will turn a new leaf tomorrow. Happy birthday, Madame President!

Feliciano 'shocked,' airs side on NGAP elections

PRESIDENT Rod V. Feliciano of the National Golf Association of the Philippines said yesterday he was "shocked beyond belief" over "vague statements" made by Tommy Manotoc regarding the NGAP elections set for April 26.

FELICIANO: I'll not take that sitting down. ROMY HOMILLADA

In a statement Feliciano said: "His (Manotoc) accusation that the NGAP elections are flawed is serious and I'll not take that sitting down. I don't know what he meant by 'flawed' but definitely, he is off-key. Here we are preparing for the NGAP elections and here comes Manotoc suddenly saying the NGAP polls are flawed when there is no election to speak of yet in the first place. I am shocked beyond belief after reading in the papers the vague statements attributed to Manotoc that put to bad light my leadership in the NGAP."

Several major newspapers has bannered a story on Friday about Calatagan's Manotoc having withdrawn his candidacy in the NGAP elections "because the NGAP polls are flawed."

It was also reported that Luigi Yulo of Canlubang had withdrawn his nomination together with Royale Tagaytay's Vicente Enteng Santos, an incumbent NGAP director. Andy Dumlao also told the INQUIRER in the same story that he withdrew his nomination for director.

"Except for Mr. Dumlao, the withdrawals were in order since Tommy, Luigi and Enteng are members of a club in good standing with the NGAP," said Feliciano. "In Mr. Dumlao's case, he doesn't have to withdraw at all because he was not qualified to run in the first place, because Eagle Ridge is not an NGAP member."

Refuting Manotoc's "statement" that he and Manotoc were both "holding conciliatory talks," Feliciano clarified that Manotoc had requested for a meeting, which "I had warmly acceded to knowing Tommy to be a gentleman. After the first meeting, he requested for another and another. All in all, we had three meetings."

Said Feliciano: "They were not conciliatory meetings at all because I had not considered Tommy, and anyone for that matter, as my enemy. I met him because he requested for it."

Feliciano unraveled Manotoc's "burning desire" to become NGAP president and said Manotoc wanted Feliciano to help him.

"I told him I cannot make him president," said Feliciano, "I told him only by a majority vote by the 13-person board of NGAP directors can he become NGAP president."

Feliciano said Manotoc claimed he was misquoted in the newspapers "about his plans to run for president."

Added Feliciano: "I just wish he would not say he was misquoted again after my side of the issue comes out."

Manotoc was quoted on Friday as saying Feliciano turned down his request to "put four directors of Manotoc's choice to the NGAP board."

"I told him I could not do that because there are basic rules to be followed," said Feliciano. "The election process is basically under the provisions of the Constitution and I was surprised why he had to resort to that. Did he want me to fix the election, rig it or something? I am really surprised. Now that he has withdrawn his candidacy, he tells us the NGAP election is flawed. What kind of logic is that? Just because he had withdrawn, the election process now becomes flawed?"

Feliciano also scored Manotoc's statement—"My vision of unifying the different golf clubs under the NGAP will no longer be possible."

"What did he mean by that?" said Feliciano. "He has not been with the NGAP all these years and suddenly, he has this vision of unification? He has done nothing for the NGAP except to vilify it the last five years —maybe more. I know that. People had been telling me that. Still, I relented and met up with him. Then he says things totally contrary to what we had talked about. And now here he is proclaiming himself a visionary."

In closing, Feliciano also chided Manotoc "for his biased stand against military courses."

Said Feliciano: "What's wrong with our military courses vying for positions in the NGAP board? First, they are bona fide members of the NGAP. Second, the NGAP does not distinguish between a soldier and a civilian playing golf. We are all Filipinos here. We live in a democracy, I wonder why Tommy has been acting and thinking that way.

Rookies bolster Tour cast

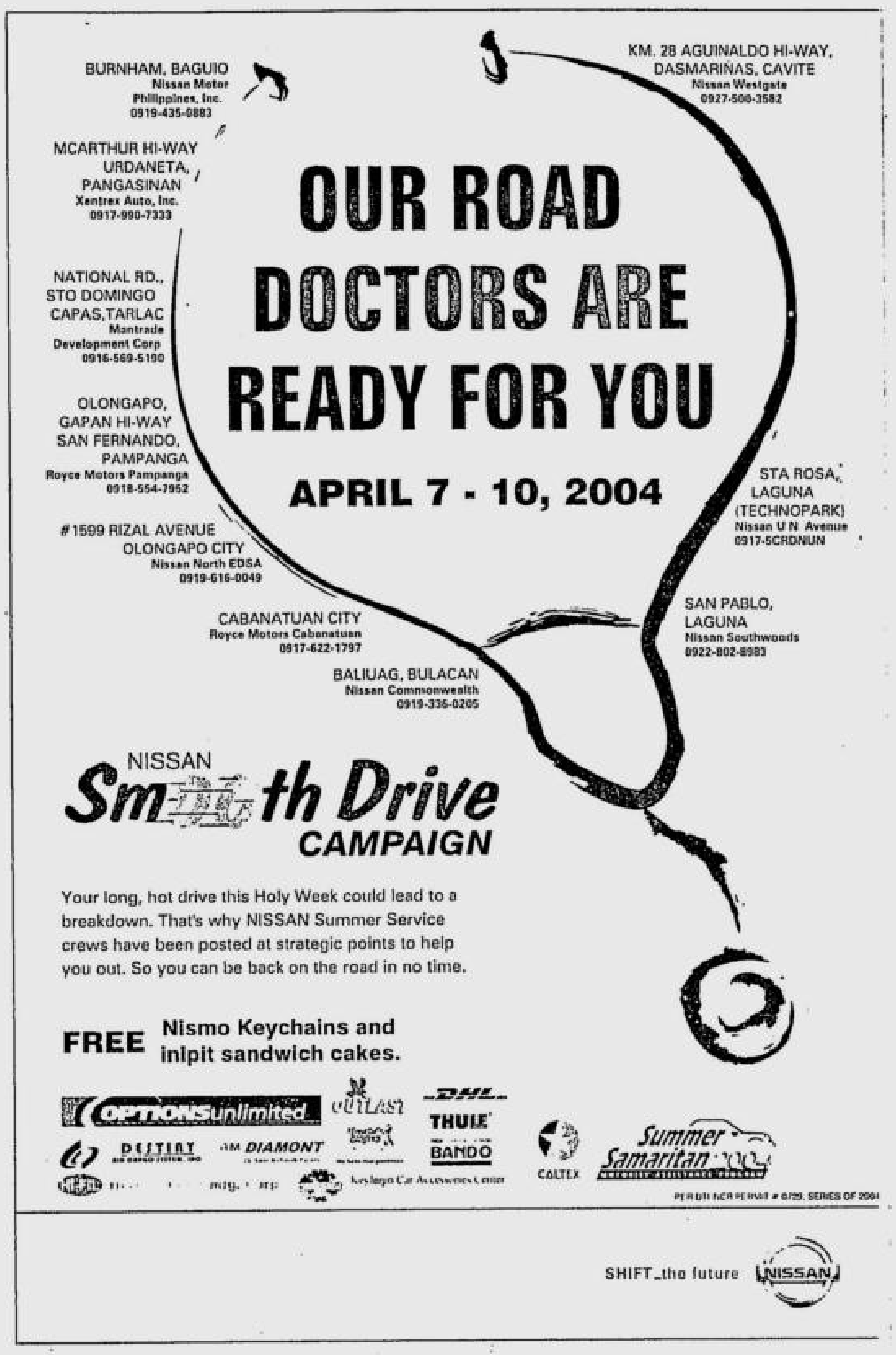
EIGHTEEN rookies are joining the 84-cyclist roster of the 2004 Tour Pilipinas which kicks off April 15 to May 2.

"The Tour has an objective of drawing the potential and the talented from the countryside and, with these rookies in 2004, we are getting there," said Tour Pilipinas chair Bert Lina, also the president of the national sports association for cycling, PhilCycling.

Tour organizer Lito Alvarez has emphasized on the inclusion of a Rookie of the Year trophy among the regular awards. With the trophy is a whopping P50,000 cash prize.

The rookies on the roster are Julie Panong, John Ricafort, Ronnel Hualda, Robert Pagala, Orlie Villanueva, Michael Ramos Jr., Dante Cagas, Noel Rito, Alvin Benosa, Virgilio Quintia Jr., Tomas Martinez, August Benedicto, Baler Ravina, Emil

ROOKIES/ A31



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20 Emulate Earhart
21 It has Copy and Paste commands
23 Two-time Indian prime minister
25 Painting and sculpture, e.g.
26 B followers
27 Hightailed it
28 Pope, 1198-1216
30 William Randolph —
33 "Hold on a —!"
35 Supper scraps
36 Inquire
37 People with very little education
40 "— Miserables"
41 "— de mer" (seasickness)
43 Keene of Nancy Drew books
44 Beetle juice?
45 Day-spa offering
48 "The Greatest!" boxer
51 Puppy protests
52 Short shows between acts
54 Becker of tennis
57 Solidify
58 Golfer Ernie
59 Youngest Cratchit
60 Ages and ages
61 Whooping birds
63 Hosiery thread
65 Minneapolis-St. Paul suburb
67 Things that make you think
72 Prizes for plays
73 Tally
74 Get wider
76 Pricey rock
79 Prefix with dermis
80 Fury
81 "Norma —" (Field film)
83 Pilgrim John
84 Ruggiero Leoncavallo opera
87 Ohio city's nickname
89 Printers' measures
90 Atoll enclosure
91 Pal of Stimpy
92 Huge fans
95 — Jones Industrials
96 Abbr. on a camcorder
97 Very enlightened group
101 Sauna site
103 — voce (orally)
104 Even one
105 Was a ham
106 Blue Grotto site
110 — Diego
112 Jazzman Macero
113 Some city sections
114 "Unzipped" fashion designer
119 Cost-accounting units
120 Particular regions' plants
121 "The Woman —" (Gene Wilder film)
122 Wonderment
123 Irish Gaelic
124 Moray trappers
125 Toyota model

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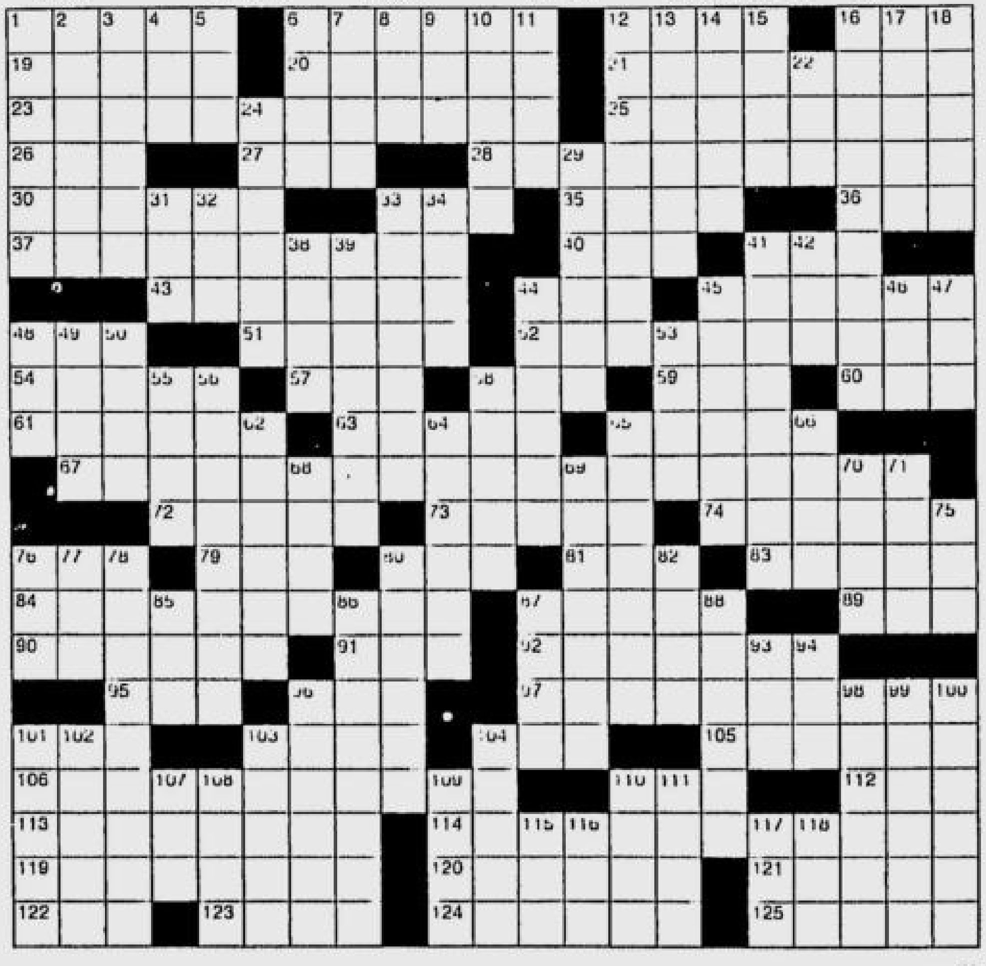
2 "Messiah" composer
3 Tribulation
4 Ovid's 1,006
5 For each
6 Epic tale
7 Novelist Turgenev
8 Sermon topic
9 Wee bit
10 Moral code
11 Steed stopper
12 Clear of trees
13 Decrees
14 Dressed to the —
15 British submachine gun
16 Broadcast in regular installments
17 Opposing group
18 Melodious strains, in Munster
22 Antislip item
24 Aorta, e.g.
29 No-hitter king Ryan and others
31 Rocker Ocasek
32 R.R. stop
33 — pencil (bleeding stopper)
34 "—, zwei, drei . . ."
38 Small Eurasian deer
39 Mutated genes
41 Broadway musical featuring Abba hits
42 Top-notch
44 Balm of —
45 Arctic
46 Dye group
47 Architect Maya —
48 "20/20" network
49 Singer or Petty
50 Persia, now
53 Coup d'—
55 Really enjoying
56 Words directing a reader down
58 Shake off
62 Enter secretly
64 Get top billing for
65 Language spoken by senors
66 Valueless
68 Han Solo's love
69 In tabloid style
70 Stow cargo
71 Bit of news
75 USNA grad.
76 Actor Gerard
77 Antipollution org.
78 Biblical figure
80 Polar covering
82 Beige hue
85 Sticky stuff
86 Deep cleft in a glacier
87 Son of Eve
88 Sanaa citizen
93 Outer edge
94 —-Cone
96 Spud sieves
98 Rose oils
99 Flirty giggle
100 "My Cup Runneth Over" musical
101 Rho follower
102 "I don't buy it!"
103 Kind of engine
104 Bridal path
107 Suffix of ordinal numbers
108 Nebraska Sioux
109 Abounding
110 Melee memento
111 Singer Ed
115 "You've got mail" alerter
116 Have life
117 Spice
118 Genetic stuff



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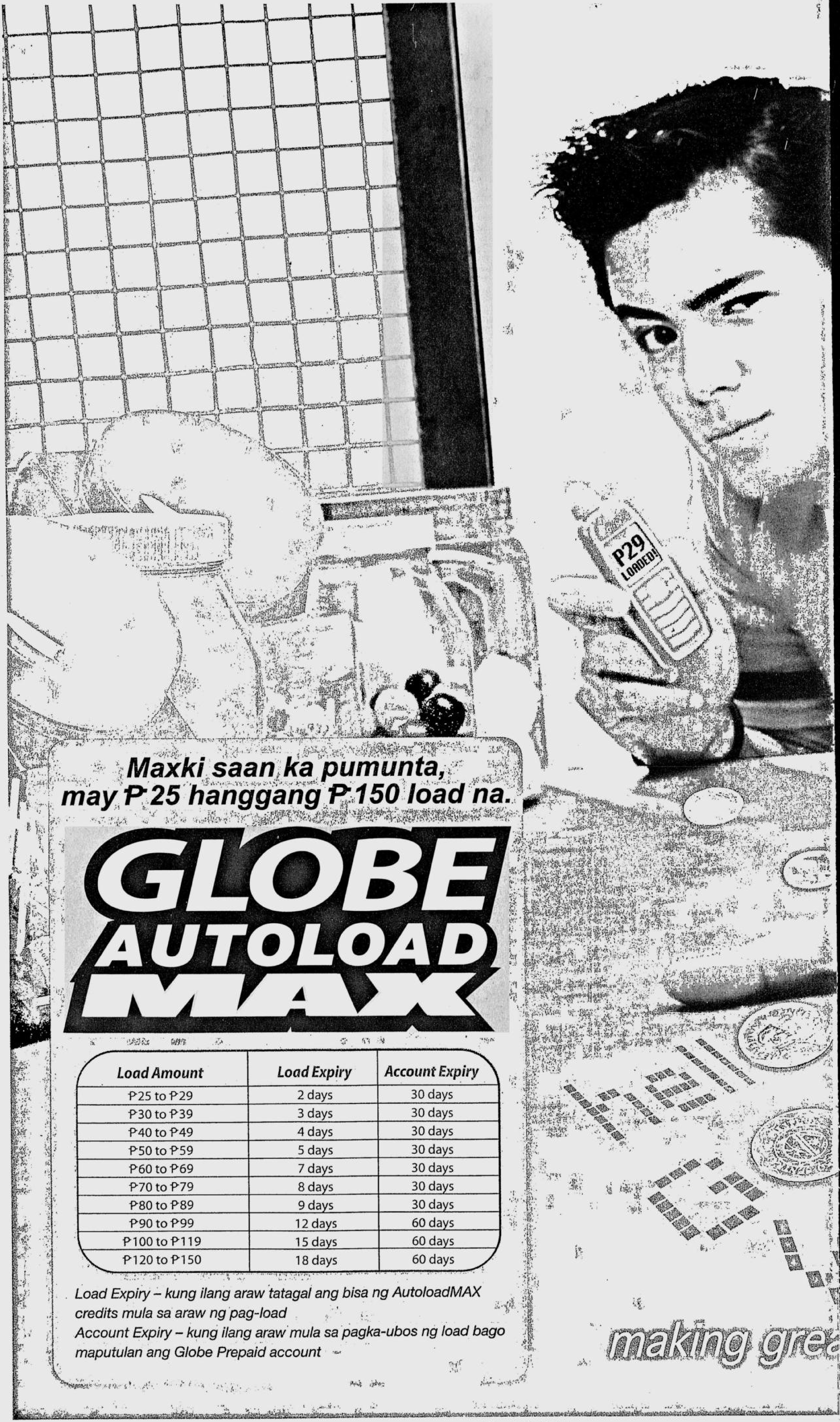

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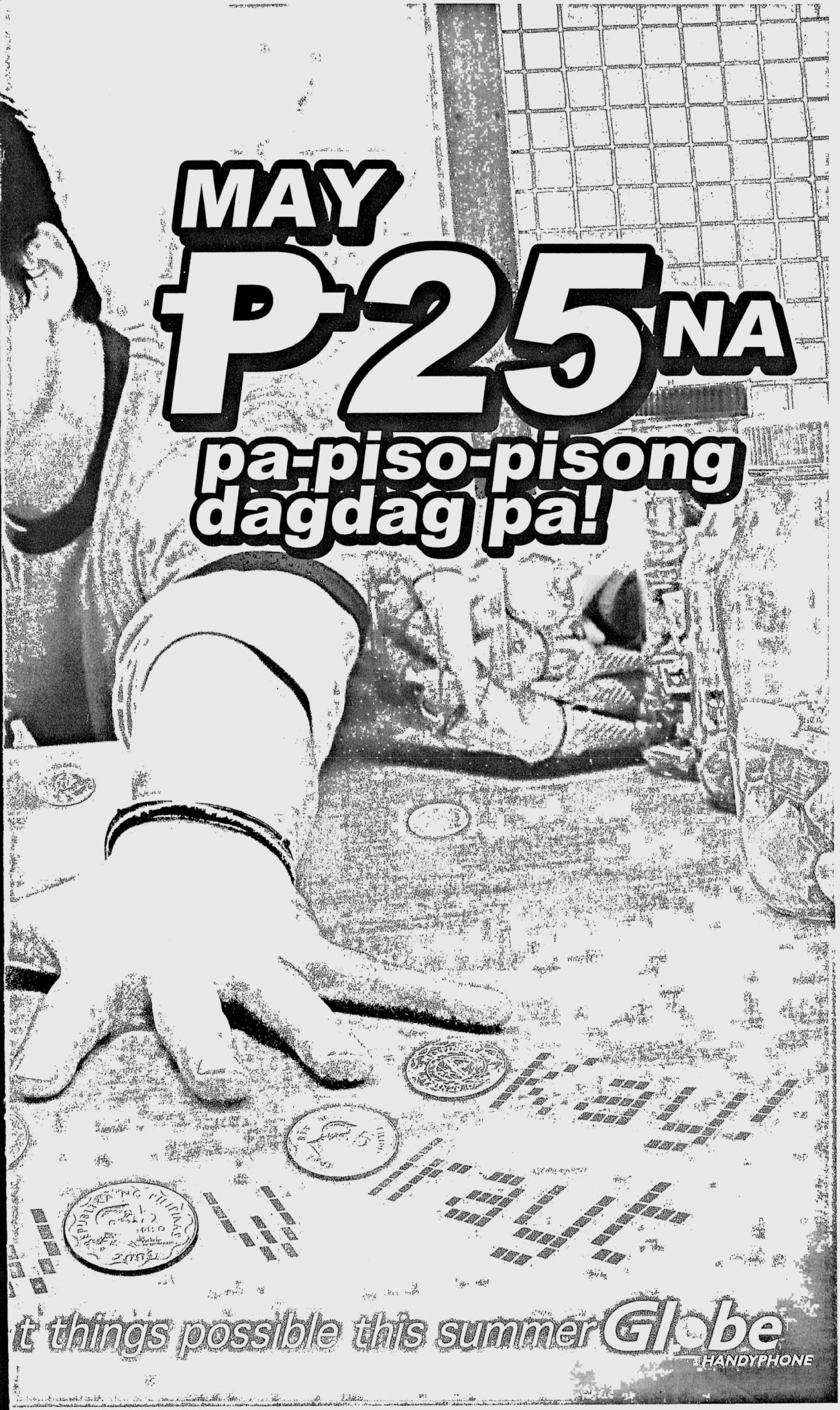
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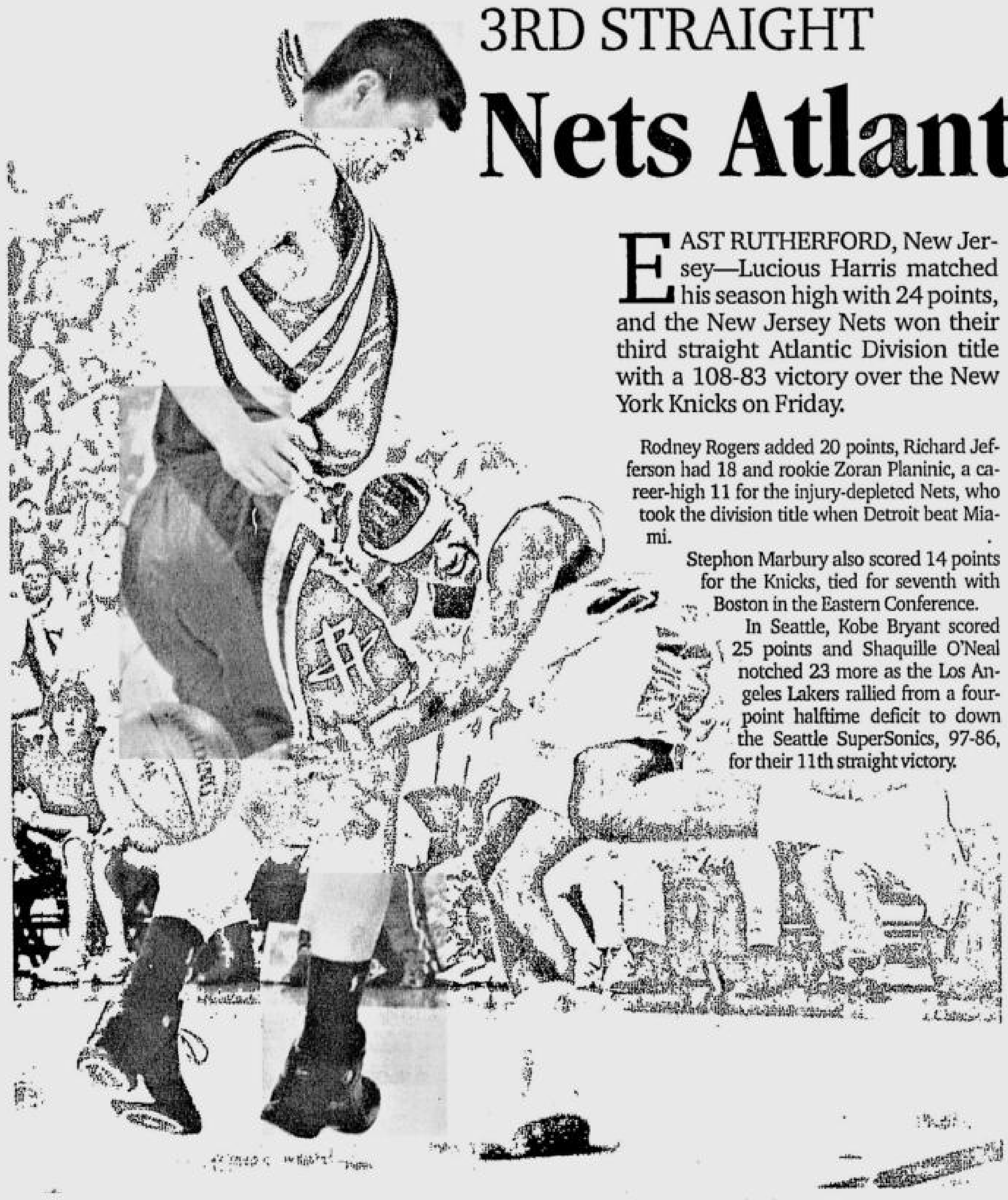


ANTHONY (15) of the Denver Nuggets runs into Yao Ming of the Houston Rockets in the first quarter. AFP

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Lucious Harris matched his season high with 24 points, and the New Jersey Nets won their third straight Atlantic Division title with a 108-83 victory over the New York Knicks on Friday.

Rodney Rogers added 20 points, Richard Jefferson had 18 and rookie Zoran Planinic, a career-high 11 for the injury-depleted Nets, who took the division title when Detroit beat Miami.

Stephon Marbury also scored 14 points for the Knicks, tied for seventh with Boston in the Eastern Conference.

In Seattle, Kobe Bryant scored 25 points and Shaquille O'Neal notched 23 more as the Los Angeles Lakers rallied from a four-point halftime deficit to down the Seattle SuperSonics, 97-86, for their 11th straight victory.

With the victory, Los Angeles (53-23) took a half game lead over idle Sacramento for the best record in the Western Conference.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Chauncey Billups had 31 points, seven rebounds and seven assists as Detroit downed Miami, 92-84.

Rasheed Wallace added 17 points after missing two games because of a sore back, and Detroit responded with its 11th win in 13 games.

In Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett scored 22 points, and Wally Szczerbiak added 20 as Minnesota downed Washington, 91-73.

Szczerbiak spiced up an otherwise uneventful night in the final minute, when a female fan went on the court and lunged at him before Szczerbiak scurried away and security nabbed her.

Sam Cassell, who had 13 points and seven assists, got a huge kick out of it—running over to Szczerbiak and planting a mock hug on his grinning teammate as the crowd chanted "Wally! Wally!"

Jerry Stackhouse scored 14 points for the Wizards.

In Denver, Marcus Camby had 20 points and 12 rebounds, and Carmelo Anthony added 20 points as Denver beat Houston, 110-100.

With the victory, the Nuggets moved within percentage points of eighth-place Portland in the Western Conference playoff chase.

Yao Ming had 23 points and 10 rebounds for Houston.

Kobe case

IN DENVER, prosecutors urged NBA star Kobe Bryant to enter a plea to the rape charges against him in order to speed the pace towards a trial.

Just one week after the mother of Kobe Bryant's alleged victim pleaded with the judge to ensure a quick trial to ease her daughter's suffering, the prosecutor, Eagle County District Attorney Mark Hurlbert, did likewise. *AP*

Complete results: Portland 105, Boston 98; New Jersey 103, Washington 99 (OT); Chicago 109, Orlando 91; Indiana 111, Milwaukee 78; Miami 100, Atlanta 97; Golden State 85, Toronto 78; Detroit 108, LA Clippers 99; Minnesota 90, Seattle 83; San Antonio 107, Sacramento 89; Utah 89, New Orleans 76.

Duke takes unfamiliar role

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Duke finds itself in the rare position of being regarded as the underdog ahead of its Final Four clash with Connecticut at the Alomodome on Saturday.

Despite being the only team to reach the finals as a number one seed in the regionals, Duke is conceding the spotlight to a team peaking at the right time.

"They have a very powerful basketball team," said Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, who knows something about power basketball, having been to the college showcase 10 times in the last 19 years.

The survivor of the Duke-Connecticut matchup will face the winner of the Oklahoma State-Georgia Tech semifinal for the national title on Monday night.

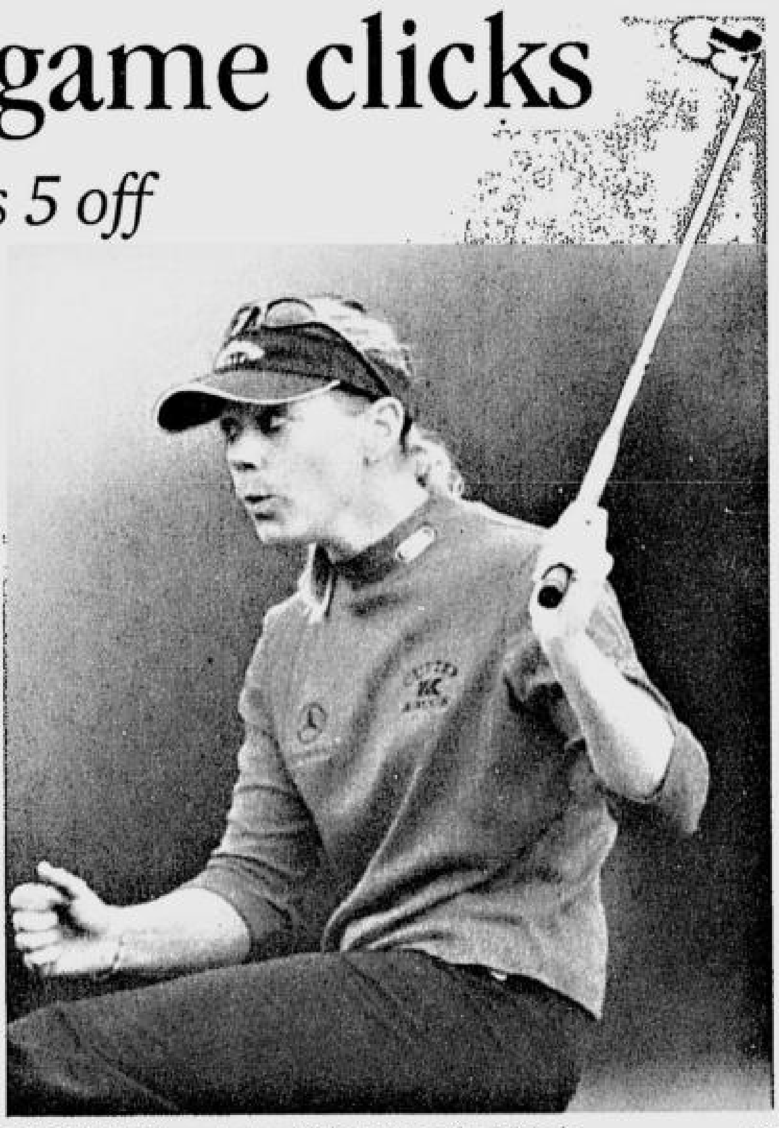
Connecticut (31-6), the second seed coming out of the Phoenix Regional, has won seven consecutive games in convincing fashion.

The Huskies have the nation's top shooting defense, limiting opponents to 36.8 shooting. And they out-rebound opponents by 9.9 a game, also the best in college basketball.

But it's hard to be over-confident when playing Duke at the Final Four. Krzyzewski, a three-time champion, has won his last six trips to the national semifinals. *Reuters*

Annika's short game clicks

Swedish ace up by 1; Rosales 5 off



SORENSTAM reacts to a birdie putt on the 8th hole. AFP

LOS ANGELES—Annika Sorenstam, her short game back in the groove, shot a 4-under 68 Friday to take the first-round lead in the Office Depot Championship.

Accurate around and on the greens on a day when the putting surface was especially tricky, Sorenstam was one shot in front of Jill McGill and Meg Mallon in the 54-hole event.

Sorenstam, the tournament champion two of the past three years, was among only 11 players to better par as the course took a heavy toll on some others.

Karrie Webb, a two-time LPGA player of the year and winner of six majors, started off with a bogey and kept going downhill on the way to an 81—her worst round since she joined the tour in 1996.

The 1999 tournament champion, Webb finished her opening round this time with eight bogeys, a double bogey and a triple bogey.

Laura Diaz fared even worse, struggling to an 82 that left her tied for 138th in the 144-player field.

Last week's Kraft Nabisco winner, Grace Park, was in contention with a 73 that left her tied for 22nd. In the same bunch was the Philippines' Jennifer Rosales. Se Ri Pak, who beat Sorenstam by one shot to win the Los Angeles title two years ago, had a first-round 74 and was tied for 31st.

Sorenstam was coming off a 13th-place finish in the Kraft Nabisco, the LPGA's first major of the year. She didn't have her short game—which has carried her to 49 career wins—working last week.

Johnson up

IN DULUTH, Georgia, Zach Johnson used a run of four birdies in his final six holes for a 6-under 66 to take the second-round lead after another windy day in the BellSouth Classic on Friday.

He had a 9-under 135 total for a two-stroke lead over 2003 winner Ben Crane, Craig Bowden and Tim Petrovic. *AP*

Rosal steals show in Sta. Elena Cup

BANK executive Abe Rosal was The Man in the eighth edition of the Sta. Elena Cup member-guest tournament recently after he tore the course apart with a bogey-free gross of eight-under-par 64 in one of the two rounds he played at the Robert Trent Jones Jr.-designed course.

Playing as the guest partner of Jojo Guingona, Rosal gunned down four birdies each on the front and back nines of the course including three of the first four and three in a row from the 14th for the record-breaking performance.

It was the lowest ever round in Sta. Elena Cup history. Rosal's effort actually broke the existing course record of 66 but it will not be recognized since the field played from the blue tees.

Rosal and Guingona went on to clinch the low gross plum which had Globe Telecoms, Royal Caribbean International, Northwest International Airlines, Omega watches, Toyota Motors Philippines and Mizuno/Master Sports as exclusive sponsors. Kart Plaza Mfg./Yamaha was hole-in-one prize donor.

Overshadowed by Rosal's sizzling game was the capture of the overall net crown by the tandem of Cholo Cayanga and Nilo Ocampo. They each scored 84 and 85 points, respectively for a 169 total for 36 holes, 25 under par.

Francisco Fermin and former tennis ace Derrick Santos bagged the Class A trophy, Nelson Irasga and Mario Badillo took the Class B plum and the pair of Jun Villacorta-Jimmy Gosiaco topped Class C.

Fermin-Santos scored 158 to beat the team of Rio Co-Jayvie Agojo by five; Irasga-Badillo netted 163 to finish seven ahead of Edgar See-Vic de Guzman while Villacorta-Gosiaco combined for 164 then nipped Ruben Tan-Rodolfo Manuel in the countback.

The top finishers:

Overall net: 169 Cholo Cayanga-Nilo Ocampo; Overall gross: 142 Jojo Guingona-Abe Rosal; Class A: 163 Fermin Santos-Derrick Santos, 158 Rio Co-Jayvie Agojo, 157 Bryan Cockrell-Stephanie Yu, 157 Therese Dabao-Tracy Locsin, 156 Vince Tanjutco-Ramon Mackay; Class B:163 Nelson Irasga-Mario Badillo, 156 Edgar See-Vic de Guzman, 154 Alfonso Recto-Rolando Castro, 154 Venson Paz-Bobby Inigo, 150 Alex Cruz-Andy Maglipon; Class C: 164 Jun Villacorta-Jimmy Gosiaco, 164 Ruben Tan-Rodolfo Manuel, 160 Jayne Yu-Phil Adamson, 155 Jasper Go-Adrian Yao, 154 William Chua-Nicky Hidalgo

Tang seeks rare 4x4 tilt grand slam

TEAM Delo Sports' Dexter Tang eyes a rare grand slam when he competes in the final round today of the 1st San Jose del Monte 4x4 Challenge at the Sapang Palay Proper, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Tang, back-to-back winner of the Mayor Hagedorn 4x4 Challenge and then the Fiesta Brooke's Point 4x4, is the prohibitive favorite in the off-road festival featuring 90 drivers from all over Luzon.

"It will be the most difficult yet of the three tournaments. The last two ones in Palawan had a mere 40-driver cast, but this one is more than double the field, so you have to imagine how tough it's going to be," said the youthful off-roader.

Organized by the Del Monte 4-Wheelers, the 4x4 extravaganza has attracted off-roaders from Bicol, Isabela, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Manila and Tagaytay among other.

"The number of enthusiasts from Luzon is steadily growing," added Tang. "It's going to be fun because *marami kaming sasali*, but it's also going to be very competitive."

Tang will be with his partner, Mindanao champion Noel Bartolome, who has vowed to come back mightily after an 11th place finish in the Caltex Delo Sports National Extreme 4x4 Series in Davao recently. Tang and Bartolome are collectively known in the off-road circuit as "Bartman and Robin."

Bartolome succumbed to the course's formidable obstacles but still landed in the Top 20 at 11th spot.

"I hope to do well here," said Bartolome, a three-time Luzon champion.

"Both the field of drivers and the course are tough, but as always, we at Team Delo will give it our best shot."

Both Team Delo Sports stalwarts will be taking part in the tougher and bigger 6-cylinder competitions of the off-road event calendared by the Luzon 4x4 Federation. The other bracket will have the drivers participating in the 4-cylinder event.

SPORTSWATCH

Free basketball clinics launched

SPORTSHOUSE and SM malls in cooperation with Burlington socks and Cherifier multivitamins recently launched a free basketball clinic for boys and girls ages 8 to 18 years old and a basketball shootout for all ages. After a successful run at SM Southmall in Las Piñas, the Burlington cage clinic goes to SM Lucena on April 16, 17 and 18. Conducted by champion coach and ex-PBA player Fritz Gaston and Montaña's coach and former PBA mentor Bon Go, the Burlington project will also be at SM Bacoor on April 23, 24 and 25 and SM Marilao on April 30, May 1 and 2 from 12 noon to 4 pm. Participants need only to show a proof of purchase (any amount) of Burlington products (receipt/label) bought at SM Department Store or any item from Sportshouse outlets. Other sponsors are McDonalds, Sunkist, Aqua Blue and Accel. Contestants must show proof of purchase (any amount) of Cherifier (receipt/label) or Sportshouse items to join the competitions and win exciting prizes. For inquiries, please call 894-3576 or 894-3014.

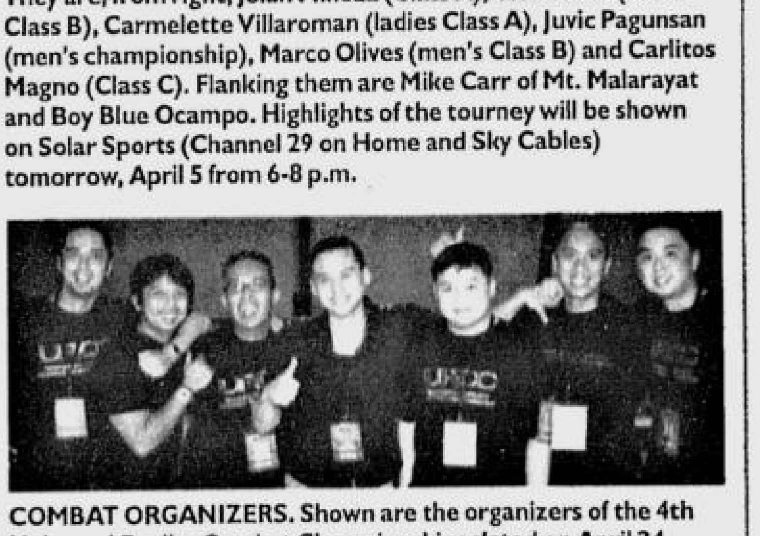
All set for 'Bakbakan' 8-cock derby

THE MUCH-AWAITED "Bakbakan Open National 8-Cock Derby" is all set at Roligon Mega Cockpit on April 12, 14, 16, 19, 21 and 23 with Thunderbird Platinum, Vitarich Panabong Feeds and Avset as major sponsors. For an entry fee of only P15,000, the guaranteed prize is a whopping P3 million. The elimination rounds (3-cock) is set on April 12, 14 and 16, followed by the semifinals (2-cock) on April 19 and 21. All qualifiers will advance to the grand finals (3-cock) on April 23. Spearheading this year's "Bakbakan" is the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB), an umbrella organization of 17 gamefowl breeders associations in the country. The vision of holding a "Bakbakan" among gamefowl breeders association started in 1999 spearheaded by PAGBA, GF-BAN and NGBA. Their first joint project is the Bakbakan Regional Stag Derby. On the following year, MIGBA and CVGBA were invited to join. Metro Manila participants may contact Roligon at 833-2275, 833-1638, 852-9812 (contact Shirley, Aubrey or Tiling).

Fistorama features 10-round bout

SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today features an exciting 10-rounder in the light flyweight division. No. 5 world-ranked IBF contender Wendyl Janiola defends his world ranking against RP No. 6 Danny Peña at 108 lbs. The fight was held last week at the state-of-the-art Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Bicutan, Taguig. Panelists are Philippine Daily Inquirer sports columnist Al Mendoza, Ed Picson, Quinito Henson and Taby Tabaniag. The show is aired at 2 p.m., Sundays, on RPN-9 and is backed by Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp. and Tanduay Rhum. Golf Power follows at 3 p.m.

AMATEUR CHAMPS. Winners of the recent Samsung Amateur Tour national grand finals at Mt. Malarayat display their trophies. They are, from right, Jolan Miñoza (Class A), Tess Staub (ladies Class B), Carmelette Villaroman (ladies Class A), Juvic Pagunsan (men's championship), Marco Olives (men's Class B) and Carlitos Magno (Class C). Flanking them are Mike Carr of Mt. Malarayat and Boy Blue Ocampo. Highlights of the tourney will be shown on Solar Sports (Channel 29 on Home and Sky Cables) tomorrow, April 5 from 6-8 p.m.



COMBAT ORGANIZERS. Shown are the organizers of the 4th Universal Reality Combat Championships slated on April 24 at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater in Parañaque. From left are Franz Von Muhlfeld, Bing Basit, Juno Oebanda, Irwin Tieng and Jed Dario. For details, call Red Corner establishments at 867-8059 and Karsten Productions at 721-3749 and 721-6809 or visit www.urcc.net.

Key Apo top pick in imports race today at Santa Ana

HIGHLY fancied import Key Apo will finally be tested today when he takes on three other classy gallopers in the kickoff leg of the 2004 Philracom Imported Horses Stakes Series at the Santa Ana Park.

Coming off three decisive victories in the open group recently, the 4-year-old imported colt from Australia, owned and bred by sportsman Aristeo Puyat, has steadily emerged as the leading contender for this year's top import title.

Regular rider

Having raced exclusively at the Santa Ana Park since her debut last January, the Southern hemisphere-bred galloper by Perugino (USA) out of Affotee (USA) will be ridden by regular rider Antonio Alcasid Jr. for the 1,450-m journey.

Challenging Key Apo are stable mates Neat Laurel and Royal Catch from the famed Esguerra Racing Stable and seasoned campaigner Time Gentleman.

The Philracom-backed event carries a total guaranteed bankroll of P450,000, with P270,000 going to the winner. Second to fourth placers are also assured of P101,250, P56,250 and P22,500 in prizes, respectively.

Lending support to the day's main event are the running of the Gawad Kalinga Foundation Cup races, two P400,000 guaranteed events sponsored by the Philracom.

Contenders

Running in the first group of cup contenders over a distance of 1,600 m are Ariba King, Sexiest, Hantuchova, Suonos, Cosanne, Hazmoore and Lord of All, while Nothing to Declare, Red Rose, Ma Cherie, Day Break and Silver Place head the second group over a shorter distance of 1,500 m.

Proceeds of the benefit races will be used in support of the Gawad Kalinga Foundation's numerous socio-civic projects.

A total of 13 races are set to flag off today at the Santa Ana Park starting at 1:30 p.m.

Roddick vs Coria for crown

BISCAYNE, Florida—US Open champion Andy Roddick advanced to the final of the Nasdaq-100 Open for the first time, playing nearly flawless tennis to beat Vince Spadea, 6-1, 6-3, on Friday.

Roddick took the first set in just 21 minutes and won seven consecutive games against fellow American Spadea, whose normally steady game unraveled in his first Key Biscayne semifinal.

Roddick's opponent on Sunday will be No. 3-seeded Guillermo Coria, who overcame four match points to beat Fernando Gonzalez in an all-South American semifinal, 4-6, 7-6 (6), 6-1.

8-month layoff

Serena Williams will play for the women's championship on Saturday in her first tournament following an eight-month layoff. The two-time defending champion faces No. 5-seeded Elena Dementieva of Russia, who seeks a sweep of the Williams sisters after upsetting Venus in the quarterfinals.

The unseeded Spadea had been on a run over the past month that included his first tournament title at age 29, but he struggled from the start against Roddick.

The No. 2-seeded Roddick came out firing with an ace and two service winners to take the opening game at love. Along with big serves, he kept Spadea on the defensive by consistently pounding deep groundstrokes while committing just 11 unforced errors.

Roddick, who leads the ATP Tour in victories this year, improved to 25-5 and avenged a defeat last month against Spadea at Scottsdale, Arizona.

Spadea lost his second service game with four consecutive unforced errors to fall behind 3-1, and when Roddick erased two break points to take the next game, he was in front to stay.

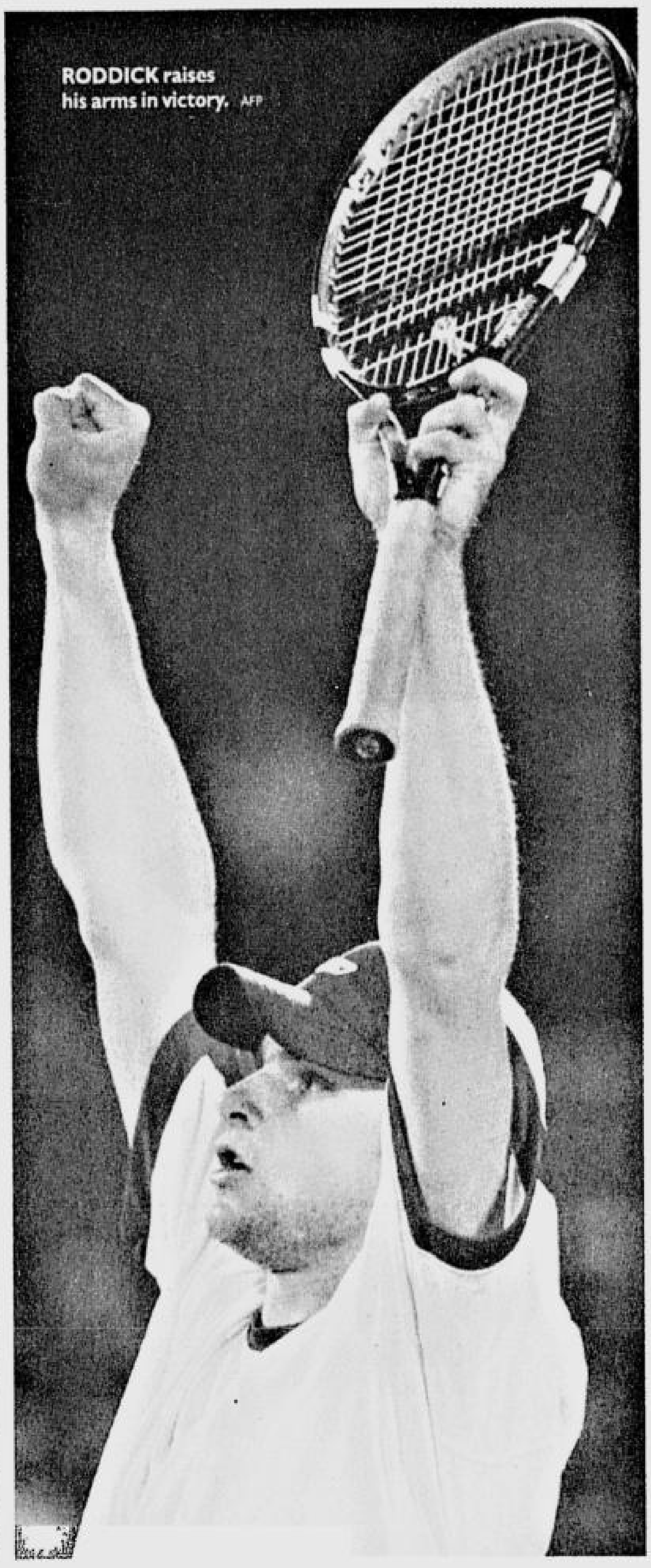
Four unforced errors and a double fault cost Spadea another service game to start the second set. The rout left the crowd mostly subdued, but midway through the second set, a fan shouted, "Hide the children!"

Spadea sailed a backhand long to reach match point, then slammed his racket to the concrete, but the fit didn't help. Roddick closed out the win on the next point, and Spadea sent the racket skidding across the court.

Navratilova

Meanwhile, Martina Navratilova will play singles at age 47 in two tournaments this month, her first tournament-sponsored singles matches in the United States since 1994.

Navratilova plans to play singles at the Bausch & Lomb championship next week and the following week at the Family Circle Cup in Charleston, South Carolina. *AP*


RODDICK raises his arms in victory. AFP

Vicious cycle

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

(My Silip Boy and I will be at the Santa Ana Park today. We just can't resist the lure of the explosive lineup of 13 races, a world-class handicapping if we may say so. Must-see is Race 7 where the hottest import in town, Putch Puyat's Key Apo, is battling Hermie Esguerra's Neat Laurel and Royal Catch in the Imported Stakes over 1,450 m. The other entry is Time Gentleman. The race is practically a battle between the best imports of the country's Top 2 stables—Esguerra and Puyat—so don't miss it!)

***

THE HOTTEST topic on and off the track remains Empire King's loss last week.

Alongside it was the 12-racing week suspension Jeffrey Ladiana got for "not giving Empire King the full opportunity to win."

Full of crap, the *bayang karerista* howled in protest.

For them, that lousy ride by Ladiana was equivalent to "deliberately losing a race" so the "*wa*-class" stewards at the "*wa*-class" racetrack where the race happened should have meted Ladiana a stiffer penalty.

The prevailing emotion now is that racing fans who felt Ladiana cheated them with that so-so ride on Empire King should have been slapped a 52-race week ban, if not a sanction twice that span.

"*Kung maaari nga i*-ban *na yang hineteng mga ganyan*," commented a *karerista* from Del Pan, Sta. Ana. "*Walang kadala-dala*."

Speaking of *walang kadaladala*, this should also be applied to those who impose bans on jockeys and, later on, sort of forgive them by reducing their suspensions following an appeal.

"*Kaya matapang ang loob ng mga hineteng magbiyahe magaapela lang sila sakay na naman uli. Parang karera talaga lokohan na*," said another bettor from Paco.

Take the case of JB Hernandez. Many noticed that the star jockey suspended atop Tool Pusher is already back in harness although he has yet to serve out his penalty.

One reader commented:

"*Pag* star jockey, *ang lambot ng puso sa apela. Pag penggok na hinete, tuloy ang* suspension."

That may be the case of ace jockey Jesus Guce who's back in the stirrups although he just got the axe recently on King's Choice.

Let's see if Jeff Zarate, sacked only a few days back and whose suspension starts this coming week, would be in action again in the next few days or so.

Antonio Jacob received a 52-race week penalty last week. Would officials also give in to his appeal and cut his suspension short?

Here's another comment from reader Ryan Rozendo Rial of G. Tuason, Balic-Balic, Sampaloc, Manila:

"*Yang mga hineteng yan di na magbabago siguro. Kahit masuspindi balik uli sa pagbiyahe. Parang* vicious cycle *na lang yang suspinde*-appeal-*sakay-biyahe. Kawawa naman talaga tayong mga ordinaryong mananaya*."

And since we're heading into the Lenten break, the *bayang karerista* are praying that "*viajero*" jockeys as well as "*wa*-class" stewards and racing officials would see the light and mend their ways *habang may panahon pa*.

Amen.

***

The last time we were in Boracay, the "in" places were Bazoora, Cocomangas and Pink Patio. It was a favorite venue for Asian beach volleyball championships.

Flashlights are a must at nighttime as you stroll along its 8-km stretch because there was no electricity then.

They said Boracay is no longer the island paradise that it was many years back. That I'll have to find out.

Hopefully, we'll be able to land on its powdery white sand and enjoy its refreshingly cool waters again after the Holy Week.

See you there!

***

E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or edongvilla@yahoo.com.

Schumacher gets Grand Prix pole spot

BUTTON AFP

MANAMA, Bahrain—World champion Michael Schumacher's Formula One domination continued here Saturday as he claimed pole position for Sunday's inaugural Bahrain Grand Prix.

Schumacher scored his third successive pole of the season and the 58th of his career after leading Ferrari teammate Rubens Barrichello in qualifying for the first Formula One Grand Prix ever to take place in the Middle East.

Barrichello had set a quick time mid-way through the qualifying hour and only Schumacher could beat it with a lap time of 1min 30.139sec—almost four-tenths of a second quicker than the Brazilian.

The German has been on pole for the previous two races in Australia and Malaysia and has gone on to record comfortable victories.

Williams pair Juan Pablo Montoya and Ralf Schumacher, who were quickest in the pre-qualifying session and had looked set to take pole, will start from third and fourth on the grid respectively.

BAR-Honda enjoyed another positive day with the fifth and sixth fastest times, although Takuma Sato got the better of teammate Jenson Button. Renault's Jarno Trulli, Toyota pair Olivier Panis and Cristiano Da Matta, and McLaren's David Coulthard completed the top ten.

McLaren driver Kimi Raikkonen failed to set a lap time after returning to the pit-lane and will start from the back of the grid, while Renault's Fernando Alonso had a day to forget with 17th place.

Sauber's Felipe Massa was the quickest of the early runners in the sessions as he led Jaguar driver Mark Webber. *AFP*

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Favorite Girl 2. Dixie Dancer 3. Hurricane Doding
Race 2—1. One Vision 2. Chariot of Fire 3. Speed Emperor 4. With Valor
Race 3—1. Cable Car 2. Classy babe 3. Chase the Wind
Race 4—1. Bulakeña 2. Lolita 3. Cycles 4/ Mr. Purao
Race 5—1. Nothing to Declare 2. Ma Cherie 3. Day Break
Race 6—1. Classic Tower/ Happy Hostess 2. Shame on You 3. Decidido 4. Hector's Dream 5. Solo Singer
Race 7—1. Key Apo 2. Royal Catch/Neat Laurel
Race 8—1. Blue Sheikh 2. Give and Take 3. Bella Firenze 4. Jesse James
Race 9—1. Time Deposit 2. Lady Lawyer 3. Blitzkrieg 4. Risen Free 5. Kagilagilalas
Race 10—1. Bukambibig 2. Suterian Era 3. Real Material 4. Native Talent 5. Lance
Race 11—1. Sexiest 2. Arriba King 3. Lord of All
Race 12—1. Kitana 2. Run Doding Fly 3. Ivisan Queen 4. Sir Olizon 5. Flash Kelly
Race 13—1. Raven 2. My Lucky One 3. Golden Moment 4. Naughty 5. Hurry Prince 6. Pirouette

Stevens leaves door open for Thorpe

SYDNEY—Ian Thorpe may still have a chance to defend his Olympic 400-m freestyle title in Athens after his Australia teammate, Craig Stevens, indicated on Saturday he would consider withdrawing from the event.

Thorpe plunged Australian swimming into shock on the opening day of the eight-day championships when he was disqualified from the heats of the 400-m freestyle on March 27 for a false start.

Despite repeated calls from the public and the media over the next few days for Thorpe to be given another chance in the event, Australian Swimming (AS) stood firm that the disqualification would remain in place.

The first two placegetters in the final, Grant Hackett and Stevens, qualified for August's Olympics in the 400-m freestyle but critics said Stevens should step aside if he qualified in his pet event, the 1,500-m freestyle, on Saturday.

Stevens, 23, finished second in 15:01.64 to Olympic champion Hackett, in 14:55.45, in Saturday's 1,500-m final as both sealed their bids to also qualify in that event.

"I'm just going to wait for the team to be announced later on (Saturday night)," Stevens said.

Thorpe won the 100-m and 200-m freestyle finals in the championships to qualify in those individual events.

Libby Lenton, who broke Dutch Olympic champion Inge de Bruijn's 100-m freestyle world record on Wednesday, has also qualified in the 50-m freestyle after her victory in Saturday's final. *Reuters*

5-day San Lazaro racing on tomorrow

THE MANILA Jockey Club Inc. is set to host another spectacular program of races starting tomorrow (April 5) at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Monday night's racing starts SLLP's five-day Holy Week schedule and officially marks MJCI's first year of successful operation at the country's newest and most modern racing facility.

The racefest is coming off the heels of a successful race meet at the SLLP recently during which a phenomenal gross sales of P40.2 million was posted.

The weeklong schedule includes night racing on Tuesday (April 6) and full-cards of 12 races each on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday (April 7, 10, 11). No races have been scheduled for Holy Thursday and Good Friday (April 8 and 9).

Under the revised schedule of races approved by the Philracom, weekday (night) races will consist of 8 races each starting at 6 p.m. while weekend and holiday races will consist of 12 races each starting at 3 p.m.

Highlight of the racing program is the running of the second leg of the Road to Triple Crown Stakes on Sunday (April 11), which attracted a banner field of 3-year-olds competing over a distance of 1,600 m.

Heading the field competing in the P750,000 Triple Crown run-up race are Empire King and arch rival Don Paolo.

The other hopefuls are Albatross, Andee's Time, Batangas Force, Cat's Jewel, Cover Girl, Gorgeous Sand, I Love This Game, Jayvie's Godfather, Moab, Native Land, Semper Spirit, Shadowfox and Toril.

Rookies bolster Tour cast

From page A27

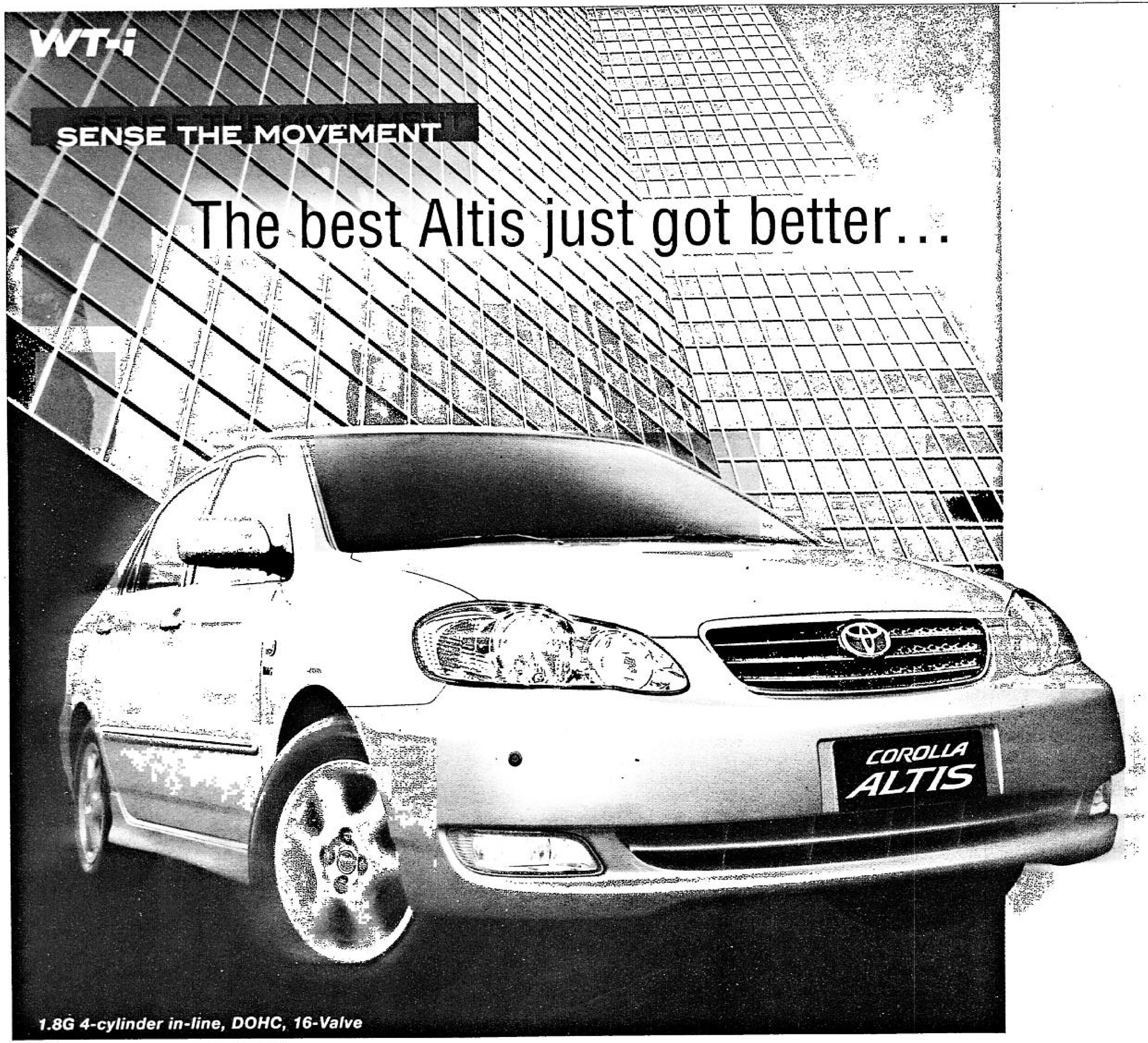
Pablo, Leonardo Lingas Jr., Elmer Atilano, Jason Garillo and Dante Valdez.

The 2004 Tour consists of 17 stages that virtually circle the Luzon island. This year, the race will pass through the major island's eastern side—Cagayan Valley—making a breathtaking run on the northern tip that is the scenic Pagudpod.

Lina's vision about combing the countryside of unpolished talent has begun with a program spearheaded by his group of companies, which will adopt junior riders—17 and below—who will be selected by the PhilCycling.

The PhilCycling has in its fold more than half a dozen youngsters, some of whom are sons of former Tour champs, who are already part of the PhilCycling's developmental pool.

"The Tour would help so much in our effort to bring out the future of Philippine cycling," said Lina. "Little by little, we would achieve our objective and from these youngsters we could develop world champions."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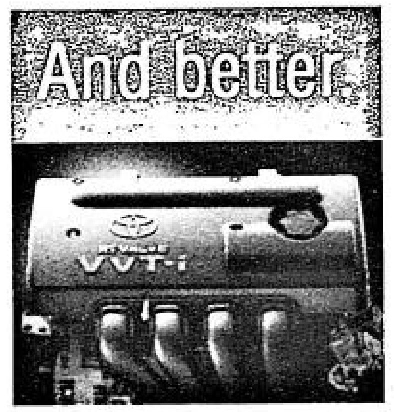

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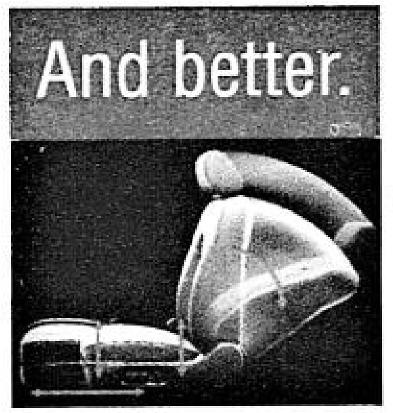

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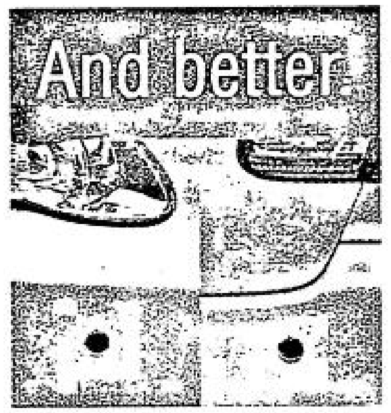

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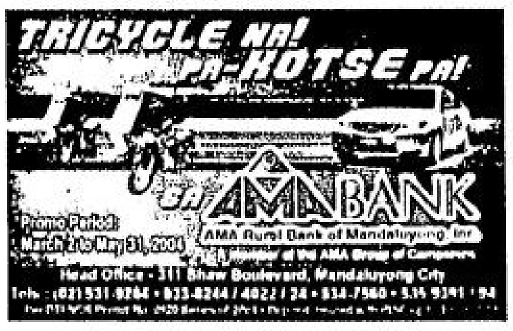
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Frustrated artist becomes top investment banker

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HE wanted to study Fine Arts but discovered he was color blind.

He had always been into acting but never looked at it as a career although it financed his college education.

Since his dad was a lawyer, "naturally I wanted to be a lawyer too." But Dad wanted him to be a doctor. He ended up being neither.

"I grew up in a neighborhood in Kamuning where every boy was an entrepreneur. So I have done my bit as a newspaper boy every Sunday for three years, a *tinapay* vendor every afternoon for two years, etc.," recalls Rolando P. Gosiengfiao, an investment banker who now heads a Hong Kong-based healthcare provider.

Despite showing right-brain dominance, Gosiengfiao fell under the influence of his environment and pursued a very left-brained course and excelled in it.

He graduated cum laude at the University of the Philippines with a degree in Business Administration.

FIRST JOB

Gosiengfiao is the chief executive officer of a Hong Kong based firm, GenRx Holdings Ltd., which owns the chain of Healthway Clinics in the Philippines. He is also a senior general manager in HKR International Ltd., the mother company of GenRx that is listed at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. HKR owns the Sukothai in Bangkok and the Beaufort Sentosa in Singapore and makes the Imperial brand of sanitary ware.

ROLLIE Gosiengfiao is married to Isabella Chong from Hong Kong and has two children.

HEALTHCARE in malls is a new phenomenon that the local market has embraced.

Quiet hand in P12-B deals

But 30 years ago, life was very different for the investment banker who was the quiet hand involved in over P12 billion worth of business transactions in the Philippines. And although he is not as known as a former flat mate in Hong Kong, PLDT CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan, Gosiengfiao's credentials are as good.

"I paid for my college tuition by being in the UP Mobile Theater and getting performance allowances for date-spending to boot. My taking the BSBA was really a matter of necessity and fashion at that time. And when I got involved with the early years of AIESEC in the Philippines, then I was hooked," Rollie states.

After finishing his business degree, Gosiengfiao went to Europe to participate in AIESEC exchange training programs.

He could not recall his first pay but remembers having $150 in his pocket when he left for Europe—money given by a brother living in the US.

In Europe, he worked for several firms under the AIESEC training programs—IHC Holland NV, IBM Belgium SA, and Rank Xerox Switzerland SA. He even had a brief stint at the Sanwa Bank in Japan.

Brazil or an MBA

After five years in Europe, he had two options, still under the AIESEC programs—go to Sao Paolo in Brazil or pursue an MBA at the Iran Centre for Management Studies, a school set up by the Harvard Business School to provide graduate business programs for the Middle East.

HE SENT himself through college via acting.

He was all work and no play for a year, but after graduating with distinction, he went backpacking all over Iran which he described as a beautiful place.

Of course, that was before the revolution where the Shah was ousted and theocractic rule set in.

Just before finishing school, Sixto Roxas of the Bancom fame, went to Iran to visit the center and invited Gosiengfiao to join the investment bank. He agreed and was sent to Beirut to set up a joint venture between the American Express Bank and Bancom in Lebanon.

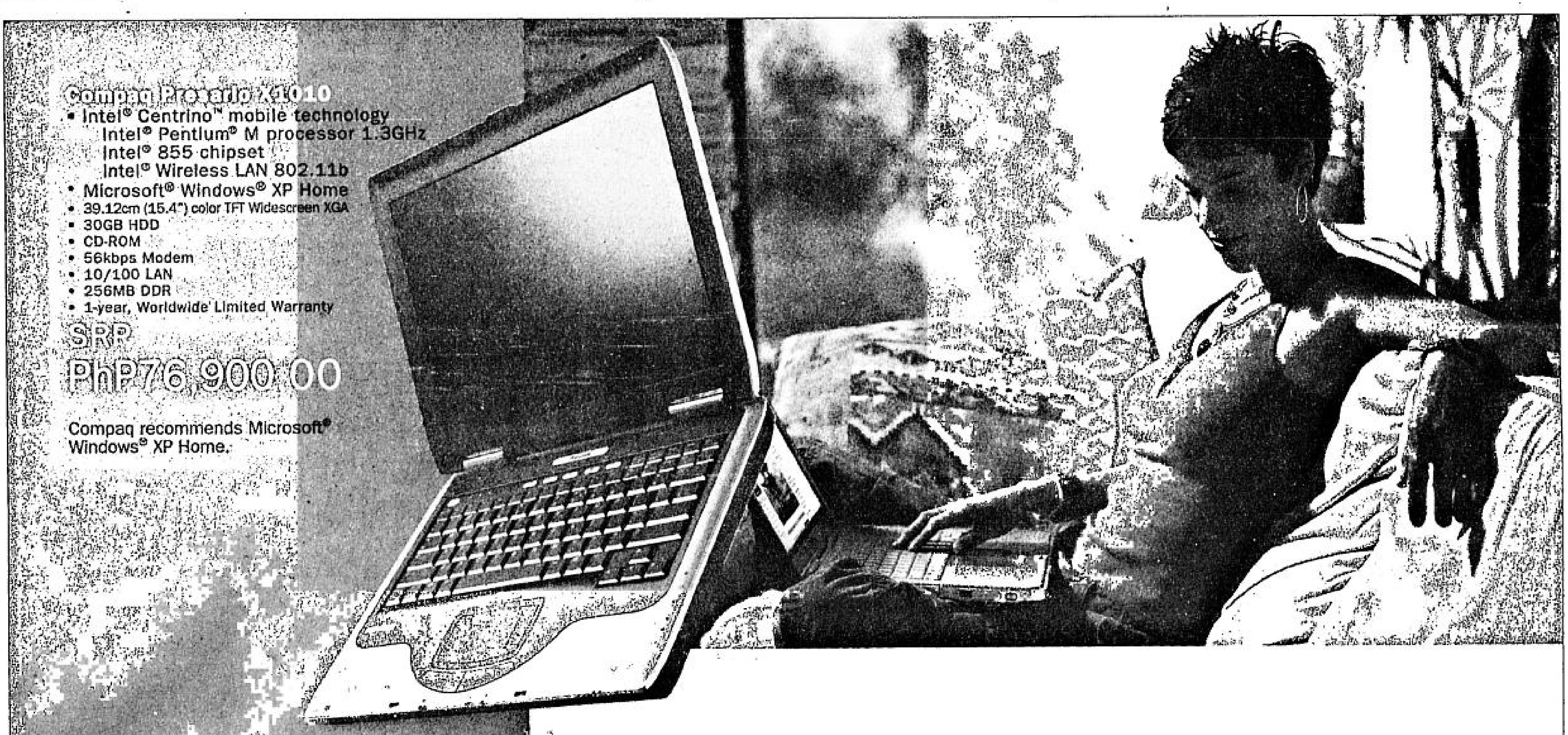
He proceeded to Hong Kong from the Middle East where he became managing director of Arab Asian International Ltd., a merchant banking institution.

Almost two-thirds of his 34-year career was spent outside the Philippines.

His local stints included being director of Siemens Inc. (Philippines), Signum Ward Howell ZMG Inc. and Detpak Packaging Philippines Inc.

He set up the Eastgate Capital

FRUSTRATED/ B2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Micro-entrepreneurs call for domestic trade protection

"FOR the past 10 years, nagsusupply po ako sa SM, Rustan's and Isetann. Pag-oorderan ka po nila, it's either consignment, 30 days, 60 days. Pag sinabi mong 30 days, asahan po natin 90 days po yun. Pag sinabi mong consignment, masosold-out yung produkto mo, maghihintay ka pa uli ng 60 days. Pag nag-iimport sila, pagnag-oopen sila ng LC (letter of credit) secured po yun. Tapos pag multinational yung kliyente nila, cash po ang terms nila. Yung nangyari po sa Uniwide, nung nagdeclare sila ng bankruptcy, affected po kami kase di kami secured, ano po ba ang magagawa sa trade practices natin (For the past 10 years, we supply to SM, Rustan's and Isetan. When they place orders it's either consignment of 30 days or 60 days. When you say 30 days, they pay in 90. When it's sold out, you wait another 60 days for payment. When they import, they open letters of credit which are secured. When their client is a multinational, their terms are cash. What happened to Uniwide, which declared bankruptcy, affected us because we are not secured. What can be done about our trade practices)?"

This question, micro entrepreneur, was applauded by his co-participants during the 4th Kapihang Entrepinoy, a quarterly business forum organized by the Center for Small Entrepreneurs (CSE).

DTI Undersecretary for International Trade Thomas Aquino advised, "should you have a business need that you feel the government should address, it's good if you belong to an association, so complains and needs, *padaanin nyo dun*. That way it is written ... It's a way to communicate with your government."

"You have strength in numbers. It's about time you go on pro-active advocacies. The Consumer Code Act is a 10-year-old law that is not being enforced properly. Perhaps its about time that you review that law and put that in by way of legislation, to amend it, to put some standards there to protect you as suppliers. You should petition your members of Congress and senators, if it requires legislation. Or make it as a policy of your organization as part of the code of conduct when dealing with buyers that there must be a semblance of close to cash, if not cash," says lawyer Adrian Sison, a business legal adviser and a broadcast business analyst of DWBR.

The business forum themed "The Future of Entrepreneurship in the Hands of Future Leaders" updated entrepreneurs on the impact of the country's political scenario on small businesses, on globalization, on the programs on entrepreneurship by the different political parties and on CSE's plan to organize the micro entrepreneurs through the "Entrepreneurs for Others" program.

Myra Gavino, president of the Philippine Federation of Cottage and Small Enterprises suggested government should have an integrated support program just like in other countries. The creation of an MSE Commission, she said, should be developmental in nature and run by development managers. Gavino stressed that "*Di pupwede ang investment bankers or corporate men, iba ang kanilang mentalidad! Dapat developmental ang mindset. Let's be like walis tingting, magbayanihan tayo, let's help each other, tama na yung blaming each other* (You can't use investment bankers or corporate men, their perspective is different. They should have developmental mindsets. Let's be like the broomstick, let's help each other, enough of blaming each other)."

Brewing coffee shops as 'hot' business

A FINER appreciation for the art of making excellent quality brewed coffee has inspired entrepreneurs to enter the specialty coffee business.

Elky Santos, Catherine Ong and Allan Mirhan are the franchise owners of Coffee Beanery Quezon Avenue, Coffee Beanery SM Marilao in Bulacan, and Coffee Beanery Mandaue City in Cebu, respectively.

Coffee Beanery opened in 1993 as a coffee bar in Cravings outlets. "This was way before the entry of foreign coffee shops in the country," says Badjie Guerrero-Trinidad, general manager of Coffee Beanery under the Cravings Group. "There was already a market for 'specialty coffee' which for us means espresso concoctions, freshly brewed coffee and innovative cold drinks."

Badjie added that Coffee Beanery has recently "detached" itself from Cravings following the clamor of loyal customers who wanted a separate coffee shop with a more extensive product offering. In 2003, Coffee Beanery evolved into a stand-alone, free-standing coffee shop offering a complete line of freshly brewed coffee, espresso concoctions, and food such as cakes, pastries and even pasta.

"We did our homework before opening our franchise of Coffee Beanery," relates Elky, who owns and manages Coffee Beanery Quezon Avenue, the first stand-alone franchise of the chain. With her husband and three other couples, they set up a corporation called ALSO.

After only three months, Coffee Beanery Quezon Avenue branch is almost hitting its target, with a strategic location that attracts businessmen and yuppies around the busy district, as well as families from the nearby thriving residential area. "People fill this place up to 2 a.m. on weekends, mostly coming from the bars around the area who take their night cap here," Elky said.

Franchisee Catherine "Cathy" Ong has put up Coffee Beanery in SM Marilao, Bulacan, may be only 24 years old, but the young entrepreneur has a formidable background in the food business. She also owns other restaurant franchises.

Her Coffee Beanery branch, located at the second floor of SM Marilao, opened in November 2003 and is always filled with customers. She admitted that the reputation of Cravings, Coffee Beanery's mother company, convinced her to choose this specialty coffee brand.

"Our family has always been food lovers and coffee aficionados, and because of the reputation of Cravings for offering great food and excellent coffee, we put our trust in Coffee Beanery," said Catherine.

The commitment of Cravings to food quality translates to Coffee Beanery's production of excellent quality coffee, using the best homegrown beans sourced from different parts of the country and a state-of-the-art process and equipment.

Elky, Catherine and Allan all agree that they are able to maintain the strictest quality standards for store operations because of Coffee Beanery's requirements in implementing a hands-on approach to management. "They require us to assign duty managers for a minimum of three hours daily in our store, so as to monitor operations, and ensure the quality of our products," said Allan.

"Latte art" is a unique and innovative concept which Coffee Beanery pioneered in its stores. Following the theme of a "coffee factory" in its coffee bars, the baristas are entailed to perform latte art exhibitions while serving coffee to the customers. The Latte Art is an artistic and skillful new method of serving espresso, whereby the milky surface of espresso drinks are adorned with hearts, rosettes, leaf or apple patterns. These beautiful milk art patterns can only be achieved with an excellent shot of espresso and a perfectly dense textured micro-bubble foam. *(For franchising inquiries, call 426-4828, 486-4829; fax 426-6681 loc. 130/127 or e-mail: marketing@cravingsgroup.com.)*

Milk flows from the rice granary

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TALAVERA, Nueva Ecija—Rice farmers usually make money only at harvest time, which is twice a year for irrigated ricelands.

Thus, it takes all of the farmers' resourcefulness to find the money for living expenses for the rest of the year.

But for at least 450 farming families here and seven other outlying towns, the problem of earning money outside the harvest season is practically solved.

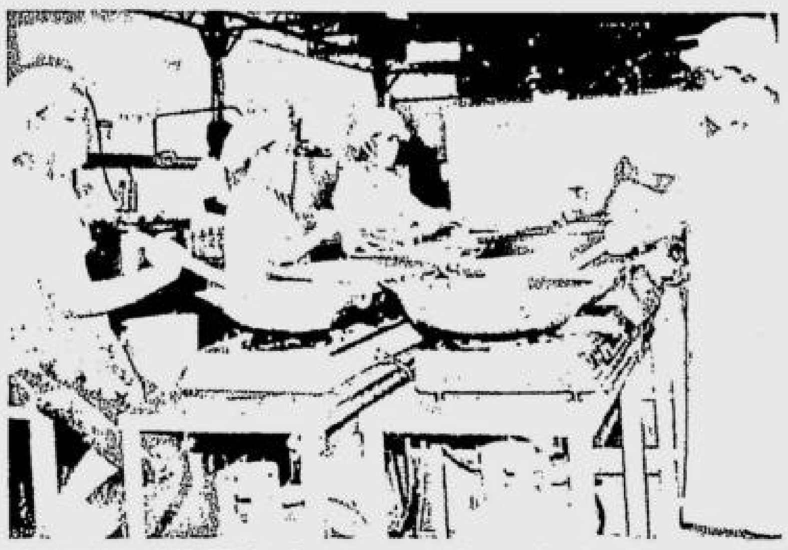
The solution was found in their dairy carabaos (water buffaloes) and a ready market in the form of the DVF Dairy Farm at Barangay Poblacion Sur here, which processes milk into various milk products.

Last year, according to Isagani Cajucom, manager of the dairy farm, more than 150,000 liters of milk were bought by their business enterprise from farmers. At P35 a liter, the volume amounted to P5.25 million which lined the pockets of farmers.

Most of the milk was processed into "kesong puti" (white cheese), pulvoron, pastillas de leche, espasol, gourmet cheese and milk drinks flavored with either chocolate, buko-pandan and melon.

The rest was for pasteurized fresh milk and for making products such as leche flan.

The DVF Dairy Farm even expects to order more milk from the farmers as demand for its milk products is rising fast.



WORKERS of DVF Dairy Farm prepare the carabao's milk

Livelihood opportunity

Providing farmers with an alternative source of livelihood was the main reason why Danilo Fausto, 50, put up the DVF Dairy Farm.

An economics graduate from the University of the Philippines and holder of a masters degree in business administration at De La Salle University, Fausto is used to bigger investment and finance concerns.

He originated, designed and implemented government and private securities in the financial market. From 1982 to 1985, he served as executive vice president and general manager of the Preferred Securities Corp.

He also syndicated and acted as lead underwriter of the successful flotation of the P350-million National Housing Authority bonds to fund housing projects of the NHA and in the flotation of Bahayan certificates, Bahayan mortgage participation certificates, asset participation certificates and Land Bank investors series bonds.

He executed one of the first and biggest debt issues of the National Mortgage Finance Corp. worth P100 million which signaled the birth of the secondary mortgage market in the country.

When Fausto learned in 1992 about the programs on carabao improvement and carabao-based industries, he did not hesitate to get involved in both. He found time to form a dairy cooperative here, his hometown.

He was elected chair of the Talavera Dairy Cooperative with 15 members. It was one of the first dairy cooperatives in Nueva Ecija.

The formation of dairy cooperatives was promoted by the Philippine Carabao Center, the headquarters of which is in the Science City of Muñoz.

PCC experts provided them technical assistance and guided them on how to successfully go about raising the quality breed dairy animals given them under the usual animal dispersal scheme.

In time, the Bulgarian buffaloes given to the members of the cooperative were providing milk to farmers. The milk, pasteurized and packaged in empty wine bottles, was then sold to the dairy farmers' neighbors here.

Realizing that the members of the dairy cooperative here, and the other cooperatives in nearby towns, would be needing a ready market for their big volume of milk, Fausto thought of putting up his milk processing plant not only for pasteurized milk packaging but also for processing milk products.

Fausto, who also underwent training for milk processing, then instituted strict procedures in the testing, pasteurization and homogenization of the milk delivered by the farmers.

The building for the plant and the office was put up in his property here. He procured from Thailand a batch pasteurizer and homogenizer to ensure the thorough mixing of the milk's fat and the liquid. He then trained a staff of 10 people, including the manager and plant supervisor, to become competent in producing top quality milk products.

Fausto also developed his own animal farm which has now about 60 good quality breed dairy buffaloes. The milk from his dairy farm goes straight to the processing plant.

Growing market

The DVF Dairy Farm products are simply labeled as "Gatas ng Kalabaw (carabao's milk)." They are sold in different outlets in Luzon, including malls in Metro Manila.

A big volume of the fresh milk is served to school children under the milk feeding program supported by the National Dairy Authority in collaboration with the provincial and municipal governments.

Starting in 2000, close to 4,000 school children, including those in Metro Manila, are regularly served milk from the dairy farm here with the costs shouldered by the collaborating agencies.

"The fresh milk is brought here starting at 9 a.m. by delivery men who are paid by the dairy farmers," Cajucom said. "They use tricycles to bring fresh milk to the plant. Other dairy farmers bring the milk themselves using their bicycles."

Cajucom said a dairy farmer getting a yield of four liters of milk a day earns P140 a day or P980 a week. Those getting yields of seven liters of milk a day earn P1,715 a week, he said.

He said Fausto is expanding the operations of the DVF Dairy Farm since more and more farmers in Nueva Ecija are getting interested in dairy production.

He adds that a "milk kiosk" will be set up here to develop a milk-drinking and milk-products-consuming clientele.

Another plan is to target the foreign market for selected milk products. As of today, Cajucom said they have "balikbayan" customers who take milk products when they go back home to their adopted foreign countries.

Milk capital

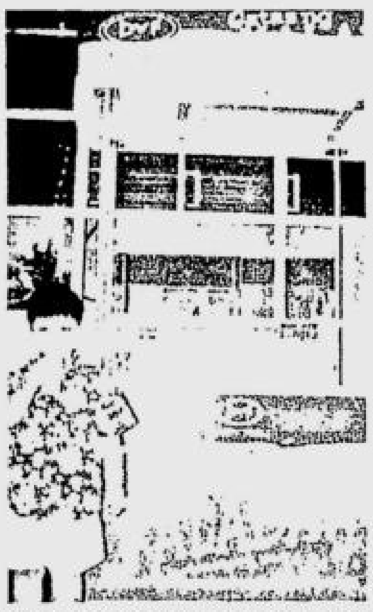
A check with the PCC showed that 1,246 Bulgarian dairy buffaloes are now in the hands of members of various dairy cooperatives in Nueva Ecija. The number of these dairy buffaloes is increasing as their calves are maturing.

According to Wilma del Rosario, coordinator of the National Impact Zone for Dairy Buffalo Development in Nueva Ecija, the farmers give back the first calf to the project which is dispersed to other cooperative-members.

(Incidentally, the name carabao is generally known only in the country. The name known for this animal elsewhere in the world is water buffalo. The PCC, the agency tasked for the program of improving the breed of the native carabaos, imported several years back hundreds of Bulgarian buffaloes which have since multiplied. Their superior bulls are used either for breeding purebred animals or cross breeding carabaos.)

Last year, dairy farmers in Nueva Ecija involved in the project sold 249,295.72 liters of milk, Del Rosario said. At P32 a liter, the milk was worth P8.725 million.

The presence of many dairy buffaloes in Nueva Ecija and the big quantity of milk they produce easily make Nueva Ecija the country's carabao milk capital.



BOY enjoys sipping milk-flavored product at a DVF Dairy Farm kiosk PHOTOS BY ANSELMO ROQUE

Frustrated artist becomes top investment banker

From page B1

Partners Inc., a private investment banking company which played a key role in the privatization of Philippine Airlines.

He was involved in other deals that involved debt to equity programs in the Philippines.

He set up Rent-A-Team Philippines, a firm providing outsourcing services in accounting and HR.

He was founder and president of Pathfinder Holdings Philippines Inc., a Saudi-owned group which acquired and established hotels and resorts and built a printed circuit board plant in the Philippines, all funded under the debt-to-equity conversion program.

"I enjoy business life and doing entrepreneurial ventures, particularly those that tried new ways of doing things. I am not an accountant but I enjoy tinkering around with financial and accounting systems, maybe a little weird, and that's why I even set up an accounting outsourcing company to provide services to small local businesses," he says.

Healthcare in malls

As CEO of GenRx and tasked with Strategic Investments of HKR, Gosiengfiao's goal is to spread the concept of healthcare in malls that the Filipino consumer has taken to so well.

"The Philippine market is very progressive. We do everything in the mall. It is unique in the world," Gosiengfiao states in citing the success of Healthway Clinics, which are all located in malls.

He rationalizes that "malls in the Philippines are the only clean and organized environment that's free. We have no parks. That is our only refuge. And it's cleaner than many hospitals."

"HEALTHCARE has been my most interesting challenge so far."

The concept of healthcare outside the hospital is still very new. Gosiengfiao says the Philippines is the most advanced in terms of acceptance. It is slowly gaining ground in the US.

All six Healthway clinics are in malls—Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Robinson's Ermita, SM City, Festival Mall, Alabang Town Center and Greenbelt.

Today its clinics offer services that include cardiac checks and outpatient surgery.

"Eighty percent of the healthcare game is to make the patients see the provider. You can't make people go to hospitals. But if you try to eliminate the mental barriers then you eliminate the 80 percent."

He adds: "All major diseases—cancer, diabetes, cardiac—have no symptoms. But a visit to the doctor can determine the presence of these."

But he feels the company is gaining ground. Forty percent of Healthway clients are walk-ins who decided on the spot that they wanted an ache or pain checked.

"I ended up with GenRx because one of the sons of the Cha family (Victor Cha) was an old colleague in the Young Presidents Organization. Victor had just entered into a cancer center venture and wanted somebody to take the effort into a full-blown healthcare undertaking for HKR. What started as a friendly one-month consultation ended up as a job six months later. I brought the family back to HK after a year of initial work," he says.

"Doing healthcare has been my most interesting challenge so far. As Andy Grove said: '... healthcare is the mother of all industries...' I guess if you compare it to the apparel industry, the food industry, the homes industry, or the car industry, indeed healthcare has more technology facets and life-relevant aspects and we have yet to see the burgeoning of this industry into many new technologies, drugs, medical procedures, nutriceuticals, delivery platforms, and the like," he adds.

"Like in food, when I was young, it was bought mainly from the wet markets and cooked at home. Today, you can get something as simple as food in many forms and in many places... from fresh, canned, frozen food to buying them in supermarkets, grocery stores, 24-hour shops, gourmet restaurants, fast-food shops, and kiosks."

"In the more complicated field of healthcare, we have just started. I see the day when most goods and packaged entertainment can be ordered in the Internet, while malls will be populated by services that relate to pleasure dining, entertainment, health/life services, and social activities. There will be a merging of pleasure, health, design, entertainment value, price discrimination, customer service and technology. Just like in food and clothes... and all our modern industries today."

Value-for-money fuel out

IT TOOK the oil firm two years to develop the new formula which they hope will lead to savings.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Company recently introduced a gasoline that claims to give better mileage.

Its launch showcased the better mileage benefit of the newest formulations of Shell Super Premium, Super Unleaded and Velocity via brief product presentations facilitated by Randy Del Valle, Pilipinas Shell Fuels Brand Manager and Jimmy Diago, Pilipinas Shell Fuels Technical Manager.

The introduction of Better Mileage gasoline was the company's response to a wide clamor for value for money fuel. According to Randy Del Valle, Pilipinas Shell Fuels Brand Manager, consumers want superior quality, reasonably priced and economical fuel. "That's exactly what we are giving them with the new Better Mileage formula of Shell gasoline," del Valle said.

Diago explained the valued components of Better Mileage gasoline formula as proprietary to Shell. "These components act simultaneously and independently of each other, removing deposits on the fuel intake system and reducing friction in critical areas of engine operation. The gasoline acts as overall package in delivering better mileage." He added that the Better Mileage gasoline formula works immediately on the first fill but pointed out that, "full benefits will be experienced with continued use."

It took the company two years to come up with this breakthrough formulation. As revealed by Sammy De Guzman, Pilipinas Shell vice-president for Retail, the better mileage benefit is drawn from extensive research as well as a series of tests conducted on various vehicle types to warrant its claim. "We found that consumers have very simple needs. Inexpensive, quality fuel that can perform as promised.

This is the challenge posed to our research and development team. All that resulted to the Better Mileage gasoline Formula."

Also present during the event were Leon Haliburton, Shell Oil Products East Technical Manager and Bobby Kanapi, Pilipinas Shell General Manager for External Affairs.

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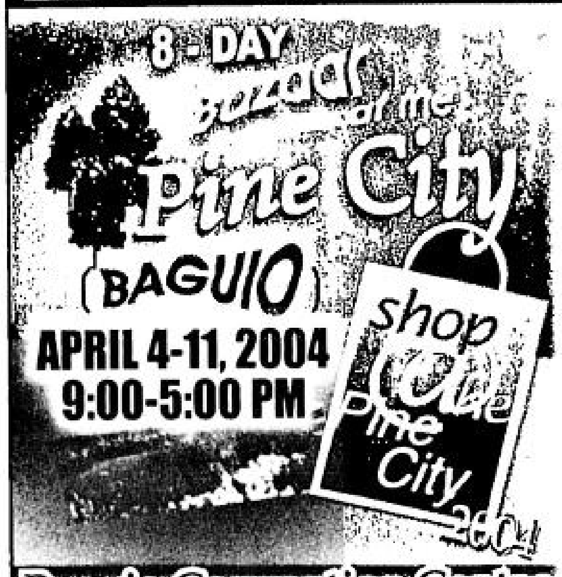

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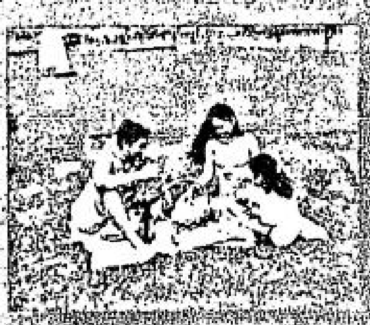
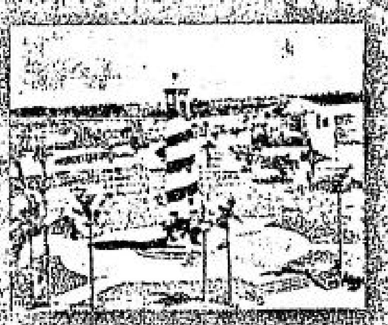
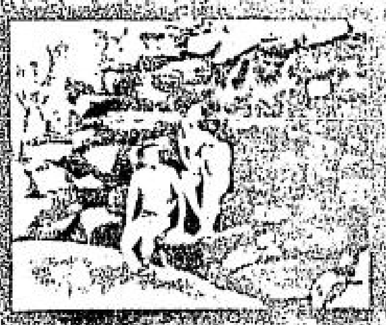
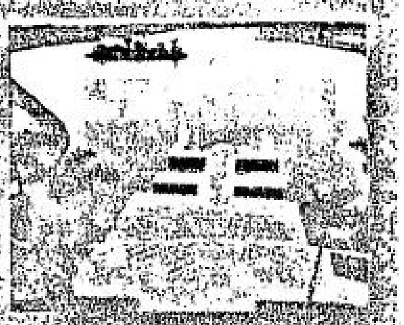
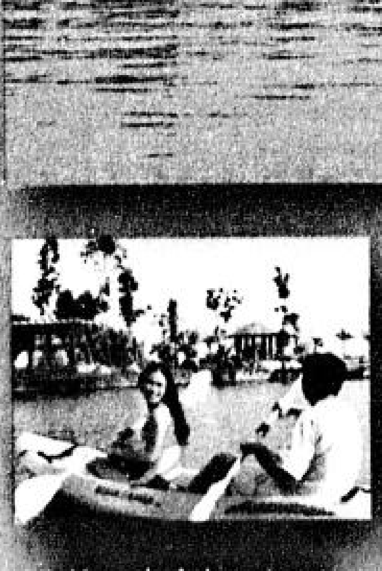

Picnic by the shore


Lighthouse in the North Park


Pool on the isle


12-Hectare Man-Made Lake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The Lakeshore/Mexico Entry/Exit

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April 4, 2004

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders classified by IAC and PCAB as at least Small B for General Building and from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans (Nov 1987).

2. The Division Bids and Awards Committee (DBAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders of at least Small sub-category B for the

Package ESM-22-009-005	Repair/rehabilitation of Two (2) units – Five (5) Classrooms School Building at Casuguran Elementary School and Culasi Elementary School, Municipality of Guiuan
Package ESM-22-009-006	Repair/rehabilitation of Two (2) units – Six (6) Classrooms School Building at Salug Elementary School and Trinidad Elementary School, Municipality of Guiuan
Package ESM-22-020-002	Repair/rehabilitation of Two (2) units – Six (6) Classrooms School Building at Casuroy Elementary School and San Isidro Elementary School, Municipality of San Julian
Package ESM-22-001-003	Repair/rehabilitation of Two (2) units – Seven (7) Classrooms School Building at Arteche Central Elementary School, Municipality of Arteche
Package ESM-22-001-004	Repair/rehabilitation of One (1) unit – Four (4) Classrooms School Building at Beri Elementary School and Construction of One (1) unit – One (1) Classroom School Building at Buenavista Primary School, Municipality of Arteche
Package ESM-22-023-002	Repair/rehabilitation of One (1) unit –Six (6) Classrooms School Building at Malinao Elementary School, Municipality of Taft
Package ESM-22-023-003	Repair/rehabilitation of Two (2) units – Six Classrooms School Building at Nato Elementary School and San Luis Elementary School, Municipality of Taft

3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the Division Office of Eastern Samar with address at San Fernando St., Borongan, Eastern Samar from April 4 – May 3, 2004 for a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos Only (Php1,000.00) for each set. Pre-bid conference will be on **April 19, 2004**, 9:00 AM at DepEd Division Office of Eastern Samar. Interested bidders may be obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to Division's Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education – Division Office of Eastern Samar, San Fernando St., Borongan, Eastern Samar on or before 10:00 AM of **May 4, 2004** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

(Sgd.) **NINA J. VILLALON, Ph.D., CESO VI**
Chairperson
Division Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–April 4, 2004)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO APPLY TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NETRC 04-03-25

The Department of Education through the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting all security printers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following packages.

Package	Description	Approved Budget
A	Printing and Packaging of 2004 National Achievement Test (NAT) Test's Booklets (Second Year HS Students) and Delivery and Retrieval Of TBs and Answer Sheets	Php 9,500,000.00
B	Printing of NAT Non-Classified Materials	Php 500,000.00

All interested printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) starting March 29, 2004 – April 16, 2004 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A Mabini bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph.

A pre-bid conference will be held on April 15, 2004, 10:00 AM at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on April 28, 2004 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepED-BAC

(PDI – March 28 & April 4, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Science Garden Complex, Agham Road,
Diliman, Quezon City 1104

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bidding date	**May 12, 2004**
Pre-bid Conference	**April 27, 2004**

Lot 1 Supply of Security Services
Lot 2 Supply of Janitorial Services

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above using **TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM** to be opened publicly at the 2nd Floor Main Conference Room of Building I, PAGASA, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid requirements will be issued at the PAGASA General Services Section, 3rd Floor, Building I, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, together with the company's TIN on **April 4-15, 2004.**

Bidding documents will be issued by the BAC Secretariat from **April 16-20, 2004** at the General Services Section, 3rd Floor, Building I, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City, to those parties who applied and considered eligible to participate in the bidding.

Pre-bid conference will be held on **April 27, 2004** at 9:00 a.m. for the Supply of Security Services and 2:00 p.m. for the Supply of Janitorial Services at the 2nd Floor, Main Conference Room, Building I, PAGASA, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

To ensure the smooth flow and to determine the eligibility of the bidders, sealed Envelope I will be opened on **May 12, 2004** by the BAC Secretariat at 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. for Security Services and 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. for Janitorial Services.

Only eligible bidders shall be invited to the Opening of Bids on **May 12, 2004** at 2:00 p.m. at the 2nd Floor, Main Conference Room of Building I, PAGASA, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids should be accompanied by a 1% Bidder's Bond in a form of Cash, Manager's Check or 2.5% GSIS/ Surety Bond, callable on demand within 120 days from the bidding date.

All inquiries, concerning this invitation to bid should be addressed to the Chairman, PAGASA-BAC.

The PAGASA reserves the right to reject any bids for any reason of its own, waive any informality therein when necessary, and to accept complying offer considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ROLU P. ENCARNACION**
Chairman, PAGASA-BAC

(PDI - Apr 4 & 11, 2004)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

Cabanatuan Branch, Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 23 April 2004 at 10:30 a.m. at the DBP Cabanatuan Branch, Cabanatuan City for the following properties on CASH BASIS.

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM SELLING PRICE
Sto. Tomas, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija	**I. Land** 26,000 sq. m. Industrial-Residential land covered by TCT No. 26107, San Jose Registry. **II. Building & Improvements** Erected on the above lot are: Cold Storage Warehouse – TFA of 2,460 sq.m. Office/Residential – TFA of 175 sq. m. Fence and Gates Garage / Sorting Area Loading Area – TFA of 500 sq.m. **III. Machinery & Equipment:** 3 units ammonia screw compressor; (2 sets) evaporative, condenser, 1 set ammonia receiver, 2 sets ammonia separator, 1 set ammonia liquid filter, 1 set air separator, 1 set oil rap and cooling water system, 10 units air curtain complete with electric controlling system and cold storage rooms. 150 pcs. Oil Trays/Racks 1 unit Power Transformer Dry-Type Transformer 1 Lot Electrical Grounding System **(F.O. – DIGNO ALBAO, JR.)**	P 82,667,500.00

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK, THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: (044) 463-1160 & 463-1163
(044) 463-0243 & 600-0702

(Sgd.) **AVP RENATO G. BERNARDO**
Branch Head

(PDI – April 4 & 5, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
Agrarian Reform Community Development Support Project
Italian Soft Loan Facility

SUPPLEMENTAL BID BULLETIN

Reference is made to the **Invitation to Bid** published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Philippine Star on March 20 and 25, 2004 regarding the Agrarian Reform Community Development Support Project (ARCDSP) of the Government of the Philippines to be implemented through the Department of Agrarian Reform with funding assistance from the Government of Italy.

Interested consortium or association of Italian and Filipino companies may submit their letter of intent or expression of interest to the address below by not later than **April 30, 2004:**

The Executive Director
Foreign Assisted Projects Office
Ground Floor, FAPSO Building, DAR Compound,
Elliptical Road, Diliman
Quezon City, Philippines
Telefax: (632) 927-07-52; Tel: 426-74-55
E-mail: minniesi@dar.gov.ph

Short-listed candidates shall submit their bids for civil works, goods and services not later than 9:00 am, **July 16, 2004.**

Inquirer - April 4 & 11, 2004

Philippine TIPS

TUBERCULOSIS INITIATIVES FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Invitation for Grant Application

Philippine Tuberculosis Initiatives for the Private Sector (Philippine TIPS), a project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under USAID Contract Number 492-C-00-02-00031 and implemented by a consortium led by Chemonics International Inc., is soliciting applications for its

Grants Program for DOTS Replication/Expansion

This Grants Program aims to increase the number of DOTS-practicing and DOTS-certified private physicians, increase the number of certified DOTS units and achieve an 85% treatment success rate in private DOTS centers. The Grants Program shall provide technical and financial assistance to set up tangible DOTS units operated by private entities. The DOTS Units should be located in the following sites: Laoag City, Dagupan City, Angeles City, Cabanatuan City, City of Manila, Quezon City, Bacoor, Batangas City, Lucena City, Naga City, Puerto Princesa City, Cebu City, Iloilo City, Roxas City, Bacolod City, Dumaguete City, Tacloban City, Cagayan de Oro City, Ozamis City, Cotabato City, Zamboanga City, and Davao City.

The Grants Program is open to local not-for-profit, for-profit and non-government organizations, provided they are legally registered in and recognized under the laws of the Philippines. Eligible applicants include: medical colleges, hospitals, clinics, HMOs, workplaces, pharmacies, health service provider networks and health service provider coalitions. Government entities and individuals are not eligible to apply.

To know more about the Grants Program for DOTS Replication/Expansion and its latest update, please visit the Philippine TIPS website at www.philtips.com. Interested parties can send Letters of Interest on or before April 30, 2004 to DOTSFund@philtips.com. Inquiries can also be sent by post to this address.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Reinsurance of NAPOCOR Minor Policies)

The DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee (JBC), thru the Eligibility and Evaluation Group (EEG), is inviting qualified local and foreign reinsurance companies/brokers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the reinsurance of National Power Corporation's

Policy	Indicative Budget	Period Covered
Protection and Indemnity Cover 2nd Bidding	US $ 202,352 85	2400 HRS 24 May 2004 to 2400 HRS 24 May 2005
Motor Vehicle Fleet Insurance	P 8,073,500 00	2400 HRS 01 June 2004 to 2400 HRS 01 June 2005
Marine Open Policy	P 30,375,766 00	2400 HRS 23 June 2004 to 2400 HRS 23 June 2005

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

ISSUANCE OF ELIGIBILITY & BID DOCUMENTS	PRE-BID CONFERENCE	SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF ELIGIBILITY AND BID ENVELOPES
April 19 to May 18, 2004 9 00 am-5 00 pm JBC Secretariat 7th Floor-EDPC Bldg., BSP Complex Roxas Blvd., Manila	April 28, 2004 2 00 pm Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd, Manila	May 19, 2004 2 00 pm Office of the Chairman Board Rm., 6th Floor DOF Building Roxas Blvd., Manila

Eligibility and bid documents shall be issued to applicants upon filing a Letter of Intent to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid and payment of a non-refundable fee of US$200 00 for each policy applied for, to the National Power Corporation, however, for the P&I Cover, bidders who participated in the 1st Bidding shall be exempt from payment of the Bid Fee

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations

The JBC and EEG reserve the right to reject any and all bids or Letters of Intent, waive any defect therein and accept the offer that they deem most advantageous to the government

(Sgd.) Atty. PORFIRIO B. VILLENA, JR.
Director IV, PDMSG
Presiding Officer, Evaluation and Eligibility Group
DOF-NPC-GSIS Joint Bidding Committee

Inquirer-April 4,11,17,2004

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MS. JENNIFER L. ALVARO** and **MS. OPHELIA R. REYES** whose photographs appear below, are no longer connected with **The Insular Life Assurance Company, Ltd.**, as of the dates indicated under their names and any transactions they made for and in behalf of the Company on or after the said dates **shall not be honored.**

JENNIFER L. ALVARO
4005-B Malvar St.,
Brgy. Bangkal,
Makati City 1200
01 July 2003

OPHELIA R. REYES
No. 53 Mahiyain St.,
Teacher's Village, Diliman
Quezon City
01 July 2002

(PDI – April 4, 2004)

ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PUBLIC

Effective December 17, 2003 the following are no longer connected with the:

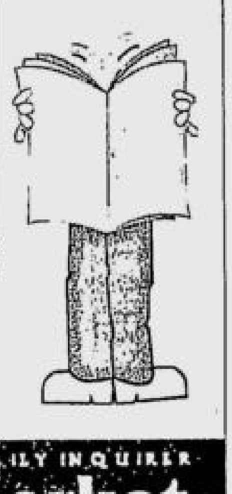
SELF ENHANCEMENT FOR LIFE FOUNDATION, INC. (SELF)

A Therapeutic Community Program for the Treatment of Drug Abuse & Attitude Disorders:

Eduardo A. Rocha
Oliviere T. Belmonte
Bernard I. Termulo
Franco M. Constantino

Any transactions entered into by the above after December 17, 2003 shall not be honored by SELF.
For inquiries, contact 807-4094

WHERE YOU FIND THE BEST.



Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket ONLINE

BESTERM INTERNATIONAL in WOFEX 2004. Besterm International Corporation, a company engaged in bakery and commercial refrigeration will be one of the featured exhibitors of World's Food Expo 2004 to be held this August 4 to 7 at the World Trade Center, Manila Philippines. Tagged as the fastest growing and most anticipated food show, WOFEX 2004 prides itself with a record of being one of the very few food shows that has generated a high attendance of over 27,000 tráde professionals in its 40day run. Be part of the ultimate food show in the Philippines, call PEPGroup at 4364209, 4364898, 9297993 or 63, 4269603 or email at info@PEPGroup.com or check website at www.PEPGroup.com. In photo are (from right) Edwin Alcasid (Besterm Chief Project Officer), Restie Benevidez (Besterm General Manager & Chief Operation Officer), Joel Pascual (President, Premier Events Plus Group Inc.), randy Manaloto (VP-Finance, Premier Events Plus Group Inc.).

The Ultimate Food Show Experience
WOFEX
WORLD'S FOOD EX

Be entrepreneurs; serve the country

By John Gokongwei Jr.

GOKONGWEI challenges graduates to be involved in job creation.

I WISH I were one of you today, instead of a 77-year-old man, giving a speech you will probably forget when you wake up from your hangover tomorrow.

You may be surprised I feel this way. Many of you are feeling fearful and apprehensive about your future instead.

You are thinking that our country is slipping, no, sliding, into oblivion. Again, you may be right.

Twenty years ago, we were at par with countries like Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore. Today, we are left eating the dust of these countries. You know the facts.

Twenty years ago, the per capita income of the Filipino was $1,000. Today, it's $1,100. That's a growth of only 10 percent in 20 years. Meanwhile, Thailand's per capita income today is double ours; Malaysia, triple ours; and Singapore, almost 20 times ours.

With globalization coming around the corner, you know it is even more urgent to wake up. The trade barriers are falling, which means we will have to compete harder with our neighbors.

New world

In the new world, entrepreneurs will be forced to invest their money where it is most efficient. And that is not necessarily in the Philippines. Even for Filipino entrepreneurs, that can be the case.

Pretty soon, we will become a nation that buys everything and produces nothing. We will be like the prodigal son who took his father's money and spent it all. The difference is that we do not have a generous father to run back to.

But despite this, I am still very excited about the future. I will tell you why later.

You have been taught at the Ateneo to be "a person for others." Of course, that is noble: To serve your countrymen. Question is: How? And my answer is: Be an entrepreneur!

We need young people who will find the idea, grab the opportunity, risk youth, and set aside comfort to set up businesses that will provide jobs.

After all, what are jobs?

Jobs are what allow people to feel useful and build their self-esteem. Jobs make people productive members of the community. Jobs make people feel they are worthy citizens. And jobs make a country worthy players in the world market.

In that order of things, it is the entrepreneurs who have the power to harness the creativity and talents of others to achieve a common good. This should leave the world a better place than it was.

Job creation

Let me make it clear: Job creation is a priority for any nation to move forward.

All right, being from the Ateneo, many of you probably have offers from these corporations already. You may even have offers from JG Summit.

I say: Great! Take these offers, work as hard as you can, learn everything these companies can teach-and then leave!

If you dream of creating something great, do not let a 9-to-5 job-even a high-paying one-lull you into a complacent, comfortable life. Let that high-paying job propel you toward entrepreneurship instead.

When I speak of the hardship ahead, I do not mean to be skeptical but realistic.

Even you Ateneans, who are famous for your eloquence, you cannot talk your way out of this one. There is nothing to do but to deal with it.

I learned this lesson when, as a 13-year-old, I lost my dad.

Before that, I was like many of you in this room: a privileged kid. I went to Cebu's best school; lived in a big house; and got free entrance to the Vision, the largest theater in Cebu, which my father owned.

Then my dad died, and I lost all these. My family had become poor—poor enough to split my family. My mother and five siblings moved to China where the cost of living was lower. I was placed under the care of my Grand Uncle Manuel Gotianuy, who put me through school. But just two years later, the war broke out, and even my Uncle Manuel could no longer see me through.

I was out in the streets-literally.

Challenges

Ironically, looking back, this time was one of the best times of my life. We lost everything, true, but so did everybody! War was the great equalizer. In that setting, anyone who was willing to size up the situation, use his wits, and work hard, could make it!

It was every man for himself, and I had to find a way to support myself and my family. I decided to be a market vendor.

I started by selling simple products in the *palengke* half an hour by bike from the city. After the war, I had saved up P50,000. That was when you could buy a chicken for 20 centavos and a car for P2,000. I was 19 years old.

Now I had enough money to bring my family home from China. Once they were all here, they helped me expand our trading business to include imports. Remember that the war had left the Philippines with very few goods. So we imported whatever was needed and imported them from everywhere—including used clothes and textile remnants from the States. We were probably the first *ukay-ukay* dealers here.

Then, when I had gained more experience and built my reputation, I borrowed money from the bank and got into manufacturing.

I started with a cornstarch plant because I saw, at that time, companies like San Miguel needed cornstarch for their businesses.

That was lucrative for a while, but I began to see that cornstarch would become a commodity in the long run, so I decided to get into branded goods. I saw that coffee was abundant, and Nescafe of Nestlé was too expensive for a country still rebuilding from the war, so my company created Blend 45.

That was our first branded hit. And from there, we had enough to launch Jack and Jill.

No instant success

From one market stall, we are now in eight core businesses-including retail, real estate, telecommunications, petrochemicals, textiles, banking, food manufacturing and airlines.

Success doesn't happen overnight. It's the small successes achieved day by day that build a company. So, don't be impatient or focused on financial rewards.

For example, don't be embarrassed that you don't have a brand-new Toyota Altis. The first motor vehicle I owned was a truck I drove to deliver goods.

I only started flying business class when I got too fat to fit in the economy seats.

And I even wore a used overcoat while courting my wife—it came from my *ukay-ukay* business. Thank God Elizabeth didn't mind the mothball smell of my overcoat or maybe she wouldn't have married me.

Save what you earn and plow it back.

Don't feel sorry for yourself if you have to work in a low-rent office when your friends are working in high-rises.

When my siblings and I put up our trading company after the war, we couldn't afford office space so we worked where we lived.

One of the products we imported was potatoes, and we had to store them in the thousands in our own house. That was when there was still no cold storage, so imagine how our home smelled!

Don't be ashamed if you have to wait in line for hours to sell something. As a cornstarch salesman, it took me days just to land a meeting with San Miguel.

Don't be discouraged when at first you don't get financing to start your business. PBCom made me wait hours for my interview, only to tell me my loan request was disapproved.

Family affair

And never forget your families! Your parents denied themselves many things to send you here. They could have traveled around the world a couple of times with the money they set aside for your education, and your social life, and your comforts.

Remember them-and thank them.

When you have families of your own, you must come home for dinner. Spend at least one meal with them, and that will probably be the meal at night, after your children have come in from school and just before your evening out with more business associates.

As it is with business, so it is with family. There are no short cuts for building either one. Remember, no short cuts.

St. Ignatius Loyola, your patron saint, and founder of this 450-year old organization I admire, described an ideal Jesuit as one who "lives with one foot raised."

Learning from Jesuits

St. Ignatius knew that, to build a successful organization, he needed to recruit and educate men who were not afraid of change but were in fact excited by it.

The Jesuits have another quote. "Make the whole world your house" which means that the ideal Jesuit must be at home anywhere. By adapting to change, but at the same time staying true to their personal beliefs, the Society of Jesus has become the long-lasting and successful organization it is today and has made all the world their house.

So, let's live with one foot raised in facing the next big opportunity: globalization.

Globalization can be your greatest enemy. But it can also be your biggest ally.

Yes, our government may not be perfect, and our economic environment not ideal, but true entrepreneurs will find opportunities anywhere.

Look at the young Filipino entrepreneurs who made it. When I say young—and I'm 77, remember—I am talking about those in their 50s and below. Tony Tan of Jollibee, Ben Chan of Bench, Rolando Hortaleza of Splash Manufacturing and Wilson Lim of Abensons.

They're the guys who weren't content with the 9-to-5 job, who were willing to delay their gratification and comfort, and who created something new, something fresh.

Something Filipinos are now very proud of.

To end, globalization is an opportunity of a lifetime—for you. And that is why I want to be there with you instead of here behind this podium perhaps too old and too slow to seize the opportunities you can.

Let me leave you with one last thought.

Trade barriers have fallen. The only barriers left are the barriers you have in your mind.

So, Ateneans, Class of 2004, heed the call of entrepreneurship.

With a little bit of will and a little bit of imagination, you can turn this crisis into your patriotic moment-and truly become a person for others.

"Live with one foot raised and make the world your house."

(This is a condensed version of the commencement speech delivered by the author before the 2004 graduating class of the Ateneo de Manila University.)

Opportunity knocks but once.
JOB Market

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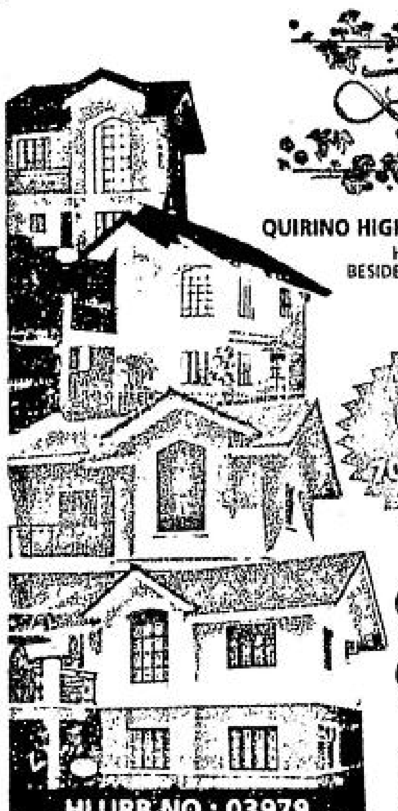

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A Bloomfields Open House

AIM
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Testing Officer, Guidance Center
University of St. La Salle
Tel. No.: (34) 23262
E-mail: admit@usls.edu.ph

BAGUIO CITY
Ms. Angelita A. Padilla
Guidance Director
Baguio Colleges Foundation
Tel.: (74) 4422564

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
Ms. Flordeliza A. Velez
Testing Officer
Xavier University- Ateneo de Cagayan
Tel. No.: (8822) 8583116 loc.2064
723116 loc.2054
Fax No.: (8822) 727163
E-mail: floravel@yahoo.com

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ZAMBOANGA CITY
Mrs. Norma A. Baluca
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Ateneo de Zamboanga University
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Requirements: University Graduate or equivalent and at least two years of full-time work experience.

Master in Management MM
The MM is a one-year, full-time, highly intensive course, designed to guide participants through the different stages of situational assessment, strategy formulation and strategy implementation in parallel step with adaptive leadership, transformational leadership, and inspirational leadership.
Requirements: University Graduate or equivalent and at least 6 years full-time work experience with 3 years in supervisory of managerial capacity.

Master in Development Management MDM
The MDM is a one-year intensive, innovative, and practitioner-oriented program designed to prepare development executives and pratitioners to manage and lead public and civil society organizations, cooperatives. and private non-profit firms, amidst economic and political transitions.
Requirements: University Graduate or equivalent and at least 6 years full-time work experience with 3 years in supervisory or managerial capacity.

TESTING SCHEDULE S.Y. 2004-2005

Scheduled Local Exam: April 24, 2004

The AIMAT may be taken any day at the AIM campus. Please make reservations with the admission office at Tel. No. 892 4011 loc. 108 or email at admissions@aim.edu.ph
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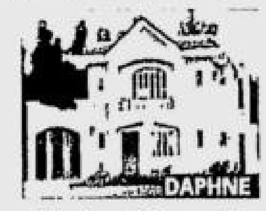

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1.	1 Sty Res'l/ Lot-11 Blk-2, Apo St., Mountain View Subd, via Filinvest Hms-2,Commonwealth L A - 96 / F A - 55	736,000
2.	2 Sty Res'l / Lot-1-A, Unit-B Agnes St, Ideal Subd, Commonwealth LA-80 / FA-145	1,300,000
3.	Resl Apt-10 Dr, 2-Sty /Castro Compound, Sta Lucia, Novaliches LA-250 / FA-369	2,248,000
4.	4 Sty H&L / # 394-A Sangandaan, N'iches LA-218/FA-721	4,100,000
	SAN JUAN	**MIN BID**
5	3-Dr /2-Sty Rest Apt / # 22 A Bonifacio St, Brgy Kabayanan L A -393 / F A -300	6,965,000
	PARANAQUE CITY	**MIN BID**
6	Condo / U-21-D, Cleveland Twr Asiaworld City/ FA-363 94	9,000,000
	MAKATI CITY	**MIN BID**
7	Condo Unit/ Unit-1407 & 1408 14/F BSA Mansion Benavidez St Legaspi Vill/Total FA-71 733	4,140,000
	PASIG (ORTIGAS CENTER	**MIN BID**
8	Condo / Unit-2802 AIC Gold Twr, Emerald Ave/ FA-187 17	6,900,000
	LAS PINAS	**MIN BID**
9	2 Sty Thse / Unit # 7 Emma Yuhico St, Union Villas Town Hms BF Resort Subd Talon-2 L A - 69 7 / F A - 101	1,223,000
	TAGAYTAY CITY	**MIN BID**
10	Lot / Lot 8 Calamba-Tagaytay Rd Brgy Tolentino-West (over Looking Taal Lake) L A -2,156 (With Lis Pendens)	28,028,000
	TAYTAY, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
11	2-Sty Res'l / Lot 19 Blk-36 GreenRidge St Ridgemont Exec Vil LA-150 / FA-110	1,141,000
	CALOOCAN CITY	**MIN BID**
12	Res'l lot / Lot-5 Blk-5 Myrna Subd Brgy Llano/Net LA-1,398	1,600,000
	ANTIPOLO, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
13	Lot-20 Blk -17 Jerusalem St Palmera Hills-5, Uulan /LA-120	341,000
14	Lot-79 Blk -38 Forest Hills Subd, Brgy San Isidro /LA-523	1,200,000
15	Lot / L-23 Blk-10 / LA – 266 Cottonwood Hts, Brgy Bayugo	1,435,000
16	Lot / L-21 Blk-2 / LA – 355 Cottonwood Hts, Brgy Bayugo	1,641,000
17	Lot / L-47 B-18 Park Ridge Est -3 (via Valley Golf) LA-811	2,056,000
18	Lot/ L-17 Blk-1,Beverly St, Sta Barbara-1, Luxury Est Mission Hills, Brgy Colaique/ LA-1,021	2,750,000
	CAVITE – Naic, Brgy. Palangue Mango Orchard Res'l. & Farm Estates	**MIN BID**
19	Lot 1 Blk 24 / L A - 1,624	2,420,000
20	Lot 9 Blk 19-B / L A - 2,247	3,349,000
21	Lot 6 Blk 18 / L A - 1,468	1,821,000
22	Lot 5 Blk 19 / L A - 964	1,196,000
23	Lot 6 Blk 19 / L A - 1,194	1,481,000
24	Lot 4 Blk 19-A / L A - 2,953	3,662,000
25	Lot 6 Blk 19-A / L A - 1,249	1,549,000
26	Lot 5 Blk 19-B / L A - 3,052	3,785,000
27	Lot 8 Blk 19-B / L A - 1,890	2,344,000
28	Lot 10 Blk 19-B / L A - 2,245	2,784,000
	CAVITE – Springville, Molino	**MIN BID**
29	L-10-B B-2, Rimas St, West Phase – 1 / L A – 71	291,000
30	L-20-A B-2, Rimas St/ L A - 75	308,000
31	L24 B-13 Agoho St, Central Phase – 2 / L A – 70	319,000
32	L-11-A B-22, Dayap St, West Phase – 2 / L A - 80	328,000
33	L-3-B B-10, Pina St, West Phase – 1 / L A - 85	348,000
34	L-3 B-2, Chico St, West Phase – 2 / L A - 183	750,000
35	L-8 B-12, (near Agoho St) Central Phase-2 / L A – 180	820,000
	CAVITE	**MIN BID**
36	L-16 B-1 Ph -1 Mla South Woods Res'l Estate, Baybay, Carmona / LA-1 224	4,604,000
	VALENZUELA	**MIN BID**
37	2 Sty Bldg/L-23 A-4, N Urulia St, Palasan LA-670 / FA-694	2,070,000
38	Lot / L-551-A-2-A-3, Pineda Compd,Bonifacio St,Canumay – East / LA - 1,114	2,241,000
39	3-Dr /1-sty Apt w/ warehouse # 92 G Marcelo St, Maysan L A - 500 / F A - 386	1,800,000
40	2 Sty Hse & lot / Lot-1, 2 & 3 Blk-7 cor of Aster, Wistaria & Forsythia Sts De Castro Subd Bagbaguin/TLA- 650 / FA- 547	6,660,000
	BULACAN	**MIN BID**
41	Lot / # 31 Maria St Divine Mercy Subd, Bo Sto Rosa Marilao / L A - 240	775,000
42	Lot-47 Blk-23 Verde Hts, Brgy Gaya-Gaya San Jose Del Monte L A -40 / F A 29	206,000
	TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
43	Agro - Ind'l Lot / Lot 3871-D S Maragul Tibag / LA-10 001	2,321,000
	NUEVA ECIJA	**MIN BID**
44	Lot 46-C-1 to 46-C-27 Km #96 Castellano Sn Leonardo/LA-5,000	2,166,000
	(# 629 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili, Cab. City)	
45	Lot 3-A-6/LA-2,071/NLA-1 820 62	240,000
46	Lot 3-A-5/LA-2,071/NLA-1 847 61	241,000
47	Lot 3-A-4/LA-2,071/NLA-1 847 88	241,000
48	Lot 3-A-3/LA-2,071/NLA-1 848 17	241,000
49	Lot 3-A-2/LA-2,071/NLA-1,848 36	241,000
50	Lot 3-A-1/LA-2,071/NLA-1 839 88	241,000
51	Lot 2-B/LA-2,819/NLA-2,338 68	773,000
52	Lot 2-A/LA-2 822/NLA-2,535 38	833,000
53	Lot 2-D/LA-2,250/NLA-2,008 08	1,127,000
54	Lot 2-C/LA-2,818/NLA-2,345 81	1,311,000
55	Lot 2-F/LA-2,250/NLA-2,008 88	1,610,000
56	Lot 2-E/LA-2,249/NLA-2,007 48	1,610,000
57	2 Storey resl / Lot 2-G LA 2 384/NLA-1,881 9/FA-138	2,413,000
	LAGUNA-Poblacion, Cabuyao	**MIN BID**
58	2 Sty Thse / Unit-2 Bellbari Elsol Villas Thms LA 54/FA 55	576,000

RESIDENTIAL

	LAGUNA-Poblacion, Cabuyao	MIN BID
59	2 Sty Thse / Unit-4 Bellbari Elsol Villas Thms LA-54/FA-55	576,000
	MUNTINLUPA – Victoria Hms.	**MIN BID**
60	L-125 B-3-A Almond St/LA-436	872,000
61	L-127 B-3-A Almond St/LA-459	918,000
62	L-19 B-3-I Jasmine St /LA-713	1,426,000
	ANGONO, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
63	L-6 Blk-2 Mills St Sta Monica Classic Est ,Ph-3,Mission Hills Mababang Parang (via Antipolo) LA- 540	1,677,000
	ISABELA	**MIN BID**
64	Lot/Lot 8833-D Provincial Rd Bacarena San Mateo/LA-3 673	937,000
	BICOL – Legaspi, Albay	**MIN BID**
65	Lot 54-E, F & G M Marquez Extn CRB Subd / L A - 3,000	1,766,000
	Orchard Res'l.Estates and Golf & Country Club, Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
	FAIRWAY LOTS	**MIN BID**
66	L - 31 Blk – 30 / L A – 858	3,261,000
67	L - 17 Blk – 10 / L A – 1,034	3,930,000
68	L - 52 Blk – 17 / L A – 1 130	4,294,000
	NON – FAIRWAY LOTS	**MIN BID**
69	L – 35 Blk - 37 / L A - 687	2,061,000
70	L – 67 Blk - 48 / L A - 506	1,518,000
	STA. MARIA, BULACAN – SUNRAYS VILL.	
71	Lot / L – 38 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
72	Lot / L – 50 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
73	Lot / L – 72 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
74	Lot / L – 81 Blk - 5 / L A - 40	60,000
75	Lot / L – 1 Blk - 7 / L A - 86	129,000
76	Lot / L – 2 Blk - 7 / L A - 78	117,000
77	Lot / L – 3 Blk - 7 / L A - 101	151,500
78	Lot / L – 3 Blk - 3 / L A - 70	210,000
79	Lot / L – 7 Blk - 3 / L A - 70	210,000
80	Lot / L – 9 Blk - 3 / L A - 70	210,000
81	Lot / L – 21 Blk - 3 / L A - 70	210,000
82	Lot / L – 23 Blk - 3 / L A - 70	210,000
83	Lot / L – 25 Blk - 3 / L A - 70	210,000
84	Lot / L – 27 Blk - 3 / L A - 70	210,000
85	Lot / L – 29 Blk - 3 / L A - 70	210,000
86	Lot / L – 31 Blk - 3 / L A - 70	210,000
87	Lot / L – 32 Blk - 3 / L A - 70	210,000
88	Lot / L – 1 Blk - 3 / LA-154	462,000
89	Lot / L – 33 Blk - 3 / LA-83	249,000
90	Lot / L – 34 Blk - 3 / LA-115	345,000
91	H & L/L-7 Blk-2 /LA-70/FA-30	336,000
92	H & L/L-26 Blk-2/LA-70/FA-30	336,000
93	Lot / Block - 6 / L A - 111	278,000

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	VALENZUELA CITY	MIN BID
94	Ind'l Lot w/ Warehse /Lot-421-B-4-C-1-A, M Francisco St, Lingunan LA-938 / FA-937 40	5,343,000
95	Ind'l Lot / Lot-303-B-2, Brgy Maysan / Net L A - 11,174	7,599,000
96	Ind'l Lot / Lot-2 6-A, 4-A & B 3, 6-B-1 & 2, Brgy Maysan Net L A-12 516 (via Viongco St)	10,812,000
97	Ind'l Lot / Lot 1091-A-2-B, 386-C-2, 1571-386-D, 1572-B-1-A, 1572-B-2-A 1091-A-2-A, 1572-B-2-B & 386-C-1-B, Jacinto St, Canumay-West Net L A - 27 094	21,481,000
98.	Ind'l Lot w/ Warehse / # 47 Maysan Rd Brgy Maysan T L A- 7,871 / T F A- 7,040	56,396,000
99	Ind'l Lot / Lot-1085-B-2-C-2 Plastic City Comp'd Brgy Maysan LA-400 (near gate-5)	612,000
100	Ind'l Lot w/ 2 Warehse (14 & 16) Barracks, Canteen, Guardhse Lot 1075-D-1-C, Plastic City # 6 T Santiago St, Canumay-West LA- 9 923 / FA- 7 096	49,230,000
101	Ind'l Lot w/ 3 Res'l Bldgs /Lot-382-G, Plastic City Housing Canumay LA-25,798/FA-5,310	39,478,000
102	Wareh'se / Lot-13 Templanza St Don Pedro Vill, Marulas Val / L A - 2 540 / F A - 3 314	12,200,000
	MAKATI	**MIN BID**
103	Lot# 3904 Quingua St Brgy Pinagkaisahan / LA-612	12,240,000
104	Condo/ 5/F Millenium Plaza Eduque St / F A - 261 24	12,436,000
105	Lot /Lot-1-B & Lot-2-B Buendia cor Marconi St / TLA-472	15,200,000
	QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
106	Lot 8 & 9 Blk-S-27 Timog Ave LA-1,380/FA-1,500 (On Lease)	76,938,000
107	3 Sty Bldg /# 500 Quirino Hi-way, Brgy Bagbag Novaliches LA-180 / FA-488	5,555,000
108	Whse /# 185 Roosevelt Ave SFDM /TLA- 5 641/TFA-3 454	140,000,000
	MANILA	**MIN BID**
109	Dormitory 4 Sty / # 352 M F Jhocson St, Sampaloc L A - 489 3 / T F A - 1,620 5	15,750,000
110	3 Sty Bldg / Anacleto St, (back of # 1933 Rizal Ave) L A – 294 / F A - 810	14,640,000
111	2/F KP Twr CM Recto Ave Cor Juan Luna St / FA 658	23,500,000
	PASIG, ORTIGAS CENTER	**MIN BID**
112	Offc Unit/ Unit # 2004 OMM Citra Bldg San Miguel Ave (w/ parking) / FA 153 64	4,910,000
	CABANATUAN CITY, N ECIJA	**MIN BID**
	(# 529 Purok Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili)	
113	Agri lot /Lot 3-B/ NLA-3/ 041	1,656,000
114	Comml lot w/ W'hse & Offc Lot 2-H / LA-2 810 NLA-2,260 67 / FA - 580	3,569,000
	TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
115	Lot / L-4-C Rizal St/L A 759	6,475,000
116	Lot / L-4-B, Panganiban cor Rizal Sts / L A - 1,102	9,402,000
117	L-4-A Panganiban St/LA-1,120	9,554,000
	TAGUIG	**MIN BID**
118	Ind'l lot/L 2 B 1 A 1 Perfecto Drive Bagumbayan/ LA 2,920	5,200,000
	SARIAYA-QUEZON PROVINCE	**MIN BID**
119	Agri lot w/ resl H&L Whse & Piggery/Lot 6181-A-5-A-1-A-1-I, Psd 4A-001202 Sampaloc TLA -101 038 65 / TFA -9 277	40,548,000

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- 2 Units 21-B & 24-B (FA; 77 sqm. each) Kingswoon Tower Pablo Ocampo St., Mkti City
- Unit 2010 (FA; 36.49 sqm.) Lower Penthouse Medical Plaza Condominium Amorsolo St., Makati City
- Unit-7 (FA; 39 sqm.) & Unit-8 (FA; 28 sqm.) Ivory Condominium, Camachile St., Malate, Manila

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- 2 storey residential house & lot w/basement Unit-3C LA; 534 sqm., FA; 671 sqm. Unit-3D LA; 612 sqm., FA; 624 sqm. #778 Harvard St., Wack-Wack Subd. Mandaluyong City

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- Blk. 1, Lt. 19 (Area: 300 sqm.)
- Blk. 1, Lt. 23 (Area: 300 sqm.)
- Blk. 3, Lt. 12 (Area: 330 sqm.) Posadas Village, Sucat, Muntinlupa City
- Blk. 41, Lt. 3 (Area: 328 sqm.) Canyon Wood Resort, Laurel, Batangas
- Phase 1-A Blk. 2, Lt. 15 (Area: 478 sqm.) Manila Southwoods, Carmona, Cavite

OFFICE/COMMERCIAL SPACE
- Unit-114 (FA; 56.20 sqm.)
- Unit-131 (FA; 27.00 sqm.)
- Unit-347 (FA; 49.94 sqm.) Mile Long Theme Center V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
- Unit L-14b1 (FA; 147.67 sqm.) Lower Ground Floor Makati Cinema Square Don Chino Roces Ave., M.C.
- Unit S-Xb (FA; 123.65 sqm.) The Gallery Bldg. Amorsolo St., Makati City
- Japa Bldg. 3 storey (FA; 746.26 sqm.) Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City
- Office Warehouse (Area: 5,736 sqm.) Located at Bayan-Bayanan Ave. Concepcion 1, Marikina City
- 4 floors & a warehouse ground floor (Area; 105.73 sqm.) 2nd floor (Area; 113.03 sqm.) 3rd floor Area: (113.03 sqm.) #506-510 J.P. Rizal St. Brgy. Olympia, Makati City
- 5th floor Electra House (FA; 673.72 sqm.) Esteban St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
- 2nd floor Mamplasan (FA; 480 sqm.) Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna
- Corinthian Plaza (FA; 76 sqm. & 167 sqm.) Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

COMMERCIAL LOT
Lot Area 3,528 sqm.
Along Ma-a Road Davao City

MEMORIAL LOT
Area 1m*2.44m Golden Haven
Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City

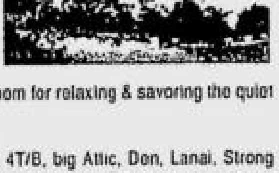
MACHINERIES & EQUIPMENT
1. GIBEN FASTMATIC MLC BEANSAW
   Use to cut boards evenly with computer aided accuracy to avoid misalignment when installed
2. HOLZER 1436 EDGEBINDER
   Use to trim excesseand bind edges with vinyl to completely wrap the board for added protection
3. MORBIDELLI MACHINING CENTER
   (Model A502SR C.N.C.)
   Use to routes and bores to precise measurement to capture the profile of intricate designs with consistent quality
4. ORMAC MACHINE MEMBRANE PRESS
5. AUTOMATIC IMPULSE SEALING (PE) PACKAGING MACHINE FFS MACHINE VOLPAK VEB-280
6. AUTOMATIC FILLING/PACKING MACHINE

For more details please contact:
Edith Gener Tel. Nos. 8437671, 8178211, 8161384, 8438204 Fax No. 8438206
Alice Morales Tel. Nos. 8438061, 8433190 Fax No. 8161691
Nilda Agoo Tel. No. 8444895
Chito Arceo Tel. No. 8444895
Ruben Santos Tel. No. 8434295

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

"Elegant" "A Good Buy!" "Exquisite" Description by most guests who've seen the above property, which can be yours for only P5.9M. From the mid-sized lot of 426 sqm to the floor area of 340 sqm, there's enough room for relaxing & savoring the quiet Community



OTHER FEATURES:
Spacious 3 CG, 5 BR, 4T/B, big Attic, Den, Lanai, Strong Water Beautiful garden, all concrete floors, granite etc
LOCATION: #72 Mondragon St., Vista Verde Exec Vill., Cainta, 300 meters fr Makro, Sta Lucia Mall, Big R Only 15 mins away from the Ortigas Business District and EDSA
interested parties may call 681-0375 or 0918-901-2001

QUEZON CITY

N Fairview Q C 300 sqm 4BR,2TB, Twingarage Call Soni@ Cel#639192685057

RUSH SALE !!!
NEGOTIABLE
SAMAR AVE nr GMA7 QC
4BR3TB 375m² 8 5M Bungalow
Tita 09194014983 /9511624

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

QUEZON CITY

Sikatuna nr CT Hall semi furn Bung LA400 FA350 4BR5TB with Music Room Lanai 4Car Grge Maids Room Bar & Billiards area landscaping waterfalls H2oTank & pump P10M nego Call 4344753 ; 09185504143 Marilyn

PASIG

2.7M LA-110m² FA-70m² 2stry 3br 2tb mds qtr 117 San Salvador St Pasig Greenpark Cellphone 0917-8922092

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

CAVITE

TAGAYTAY VACATION HOUS
VACANT LOT 6500M² 1,000/
TEL 7342503 04 (MON SAT)

RIZAL

A PRIME SUBD 2BR 1T&B LA 170
FA 72m² P1 3M Vic 8903461 loc 25
27

LAGUNA

2 HOUSES at Sta. Rosa Estate
loc Sta. Rosa Laguna 242 sq
3BR/3TB emai
dilips@optonline.ne

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA 132m² 3Bdrms 2T&B FA84m² P1.85M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2Bdrms 1T&B FA 61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES
3Stry FA210m² LA 78m² P1.9M Vi
8903461 loc 27/25

PROVINCIAL

San Carlos CT PANGASINA
Bung nice completely furnis
w/kiddy & adult pool Marily
4344753 ; 09185504143

CONDO/TWNHSE

RIZAL

BIRMINGHAM
Place2/Homes/Sunrise
H&L/Lot/Twnhse
San Mateo 2br1tb grg P1Mu
Cainta 3br 2tb garage P1.5
Antipolo 2br2tb grge P1.150
NORMA 656-5907
HUMAN 947-0325

TAGUIG

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713-5342
0917-419-3282
serendra@hotmail.com

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15min Fr Mkti 0917-831322

MANILA

Espana Tower 959T 09208309744

SN ANDRES MANILA
BnewTwnhse/3stry 3br 3tb/grg
P3 375M up 8903461 loc

MANDALUYONG

Gov Place alg Shaw Blvd
3BR 2CG Furn 0917-8102903

MARIKINA

GrnHts TwnHse 2BR 2T
1CG P1 2M James • 412-39

PASIG

Millenium nr Ortigas 3br 3tb
1cg 6873372 0917-8102903

QUEZON CITY

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GRGE P3.3M T-4384860

QC THSE 3BR-2M
Nr FEU Gotesco 9125847

UCPB PROPERTY MARKET

10% DOWN PAYMENT 11% INTEREST 10 YEARS TO PAY

SPECIAL VALUE PUBLIC AUCTION

APRIL 24, 2004, SATURDAY, 9:00 A.M.

CONDOMINIUMS

Makati City
PALM TOWER
COMMERCIAL UNITS
13.12 sqm, P 402,784 00
14 80 sqm, P 568 320 00
15 25 sqm, P 468,175 00
16 16 sqm, P 496 112 00
17 40 sqm, P 534 180 00
20 30 sqm, P 623,210 00
21 62 sqm, P 663,734 00
24 96 sqm, P 766 ,272 00
29 19 sqm, P 896,133 00
32 15 sqm, P 987,005 00
35 10 sqm, P 1 077,570 00
45.98 sqm, P 1,371 816 00
51 10 sqm, P 1,492,120 00
103.48 sqm, P 3,021,616 00

Makati City
PALM TOWER
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
23 66 sqm, P 958,230.00
24 36 sqm, P 942,732 00
24 48 sqm, P 859,248 00
28 24 sqm, P 1,092,888 00
29.51 sqm, P 1,035,001 00
36 36 sqm, P 1,210,788 00
36 36 sqm P 1,338,048 00
42 65 sqm, P 1,415,980 00
43 20 sqm, P 1,516,320 00
50.18 sqm, P 1,846,624 00
75 15 sqm, P 2,630,250 00
107 04 sqm, P 3,371,760.00

Makati City
BILTMORE
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
72 40 sqm, P 4,199,200.00
72 40 sqm, P 4,409,160 00
72.40 sqm, P 4.199,200 00
82 60 sqm, P 5,046,660 00
82 60 sqm, P 5,046,660 00
82 60 sqm, P 5 046,660 00
131 10 sqm, P 8,416,620 00
131 10 sqm, P 8,416 620 00
131.10 sqm, P 8 416,620 00
132 sqm, P 8,474 400 00
132 sqm, P 8,474,400 00

Mandaluyong City
ARK
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
37 17 sqm P 1,014,741.00
21 13 sqm P 576 849 00
21 85 sqm, P 596,505 00
48 75 sqm, P 1,111,500 00
22.92 sqm, P 522,576 00
38 01 sqm, P 775,404 00
20 18 sqm P 460,104 00
48 53 sqm, P 1 108,764 00
21 85 sqm, P 445,740 00
21 85 sqm, P 445,740 00
47 83 sqm, P 1,090,524 00
65 33 sqm, P 1,489,524.00
125 46 sqm, P 2,998,494.00
10 25 sqm, P 263,000 00

Pasig City
RENAISSANCE
RESIDENTIAL UNITS
279 sqm, P 7,810,000 00
156 sqm, P 4,212,000.00
182 sqm, P 5,446 200 00
190 sqm, P 5,130 000 00
190 sqm, P 5,130,000 00
118 sqm, P 3,186,000.00
188 sqm, P 5,076,000.00
279 sqm, P 8,366 700 00

San Juan City
ATLANTA
OFFICE UNITS
74 39 sqm, P 2,492,065 00
138 08 sqm, P 5,136,576 00
157.19 sqm, P 6,287 600 00
112 29 sqm, P 4,278 249 00
158 79 sqm, P 6,034 020.00
157 08 sqm, P 5,959,040 00
167.17 sqm, P 6,686 800 00
157 44 sqm, P 6,612,480 00
229 95 sqm, P 10,600,695 00
229 61 sqm, P 10,565,198 00

TOWNHOUSES

Quezon City
ISABELLA PLACE
146 sqm, P 2,702,915 00
87 sqm, P 2,002,482.00
85 sqm, P 1,868,265 00
85 sqm, P 1,868,265 00
85 sqm, P 1,868,265 00

Quezon City
GRANWOOD
102 sqm,P2,000 000 00
74 sqm, P 3,600,000 00

Quezon City
LA BREA
150 sqm, P1,914,000 00
180 sqm, P2,428,800 00
184 sqm, P 2,644,800 00
209 sqm, P2,730,700 00

SUBDIVISIONS

Carmona, Cavite
MANILA SOUTHWOOD
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
612 sqm, P 3,060,000 00
563 sqm, P 2,815,000 00
486 sqm, P 2,430,000 00
486 sqm, P 2,430,000 00
505 sqm, P 2,525,000 00
470 sqm, P 2,350,000 00
548 sqm, P 2,740,000 00
609 sqm, P 3,045,000 00
534 sqm, P 2,670,000.00
1000 sqm, P 5,000,000.00

Sta. Rosa, Laguna
STA.ROSA VILLAGE
HOUSE & LOT
115 sqm, P 821,000 00
125 sqm, P 840,000 00
136 sqm, P 873,000 00
136 sqm, P 873,000 00
137 sqm, P 966 000 00
137 sqm, 966,000.00
138 sqm, 968,000 00
164 sqm, P 1,032,000 00
178 sqm, P 935,000 00
245 sqm, P 968,000 00

Antipolo, Rizal
PARK RIDGE
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
437 sqm, P 1,092,500 00
605 sqm, P 881,400 00
619 sqm, P 1,547,500 00
640 sqm, P 832,000 00
678 sqm, P1,028,500 00

Antipolo City
HILLS OF MAIA ALTA
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
153 sqm, P 627,300 00
153 sqm, P 627,300 00
153 sqm, P 627 300 00
160 sqm, P 768,000 00
164 sqm, P 754,400 00
168 sqm, P 672,000 00
173 sqm, P 761,200 00
177 sqm P 778,800.00
195 sqm, P 858,000 00
201 sqm, P 804,000 00
300 sqm P 1,230 000 00
306 sqm, P 1,193,400 00
326 sqm, P 1,238,800 00
357 sqm, P 1,356,000 00

Bay, Laguna
ASIA VILLE
RESORT LOTS
175 sqm, P 350,000 00
175 sqm, P 350,000 00
175 sqm, P 350,000 00
175 sqm, P 350,000 00
175 sqm, P350,000 00
183 sqm, P 350,000 00

San Pablo, Laguna
RICHWOOD
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
263 sqm, P 473,400 00
267 sqm, P 480,600 00
271 sqm, P 487,800.00
271 sqm, P 487,800 00

Biñan, Laguna
SAN JOSE VILLAGE
HOUSE & LOTS
126 sqm, P 820,000 00
126 sqm, P 820 000 00
136 sqm, P 840,000 00
140 sqm, P 970 000 00
197 sqm, P 1,080,000 00

Calamba, Laguna
PALACIO REAL
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
150 sqm, P 405,000 00
183 sqm, P 420,900 00
190 sqm, P 513,000 00
192 sqm, P 441,600 00
200 sqm, P 520,000 00
215 sqm, P 451 500 00
222 sqm P 599,400 00
277 sqm, P 747,900 00
279 sqm, P 753,300 00
283 sqm, P 735 800 00
287 sqm, P 803,600 00
350 sqm, P 945,000 00
400 sqm, P 960,000 00
528 sqm, P 1,425,600 00

Antipolo City
FOLIAGE HILLS
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
177 sqm, P 778 800 00
178 sqm, P 783,200 00
180 sqm, P 756,000 00
182 sqm, P 800,800 00
184 sqm, P 809 600 00
185 sqm, P 814,000 00
202 sqm, P 888 800 00
216 sqm, P 864,000 00
240 sqm, P 1,056 000 00
240 sqm, P 1,056,000 00
240 sqm, P 1,056,000 00
261 sqm, P 1,148,400.00

Bucaue, Bulacan
AYUKIT
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
50 sqm, P 143,710 95
50 sqm, P 143,710 95
50 sqm, P 143,710 95
50 sqm, P 143,710 95
60 sqm, P 172,453 00
100 sqm, P 287,421.90
126 sqm, P 419,635 97
131 sqm, P 376,522 68
146 sqm, P 419,636 00
148 sqm, P 425,384 41
160 sqm, P 459,875 00
179 sqm, P 514,485 19
205 sqm, P 589,215 00
206 sqm, P 592,069 11

Antipolo City
COTTONWOOD HEIGHT
RESIDENTIAL LOTS
212 sqm, P 975,200 00
216 sqm, P 950,400.00
217 sqm, P 868,000 00
230 sqm P 1,012,000 00
242 sqm, P 1,064,800 00
254 sqm, P 1,016,000 00
303 sqm, P 1,151,400 00
304 sqm, P 1,276,800 00
325 sqm P 1,300,000 00
325 sqm P 1,300,000 00
359 sqm, P 1,364,200 00
385 sqm, P 1,540,000 00
413 sqm, P 1,734,600 00
459 sqm, P 1,744,200 00

SHOW MONEY: Php 25,000 CASH/MC • ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON AN "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" • PROPERTIES AND PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

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THE PROPERTY FORUM

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812-6418 (MON - SUN, 8:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.) OR **633-1988** TO **90** (MON - SUN, 10:30 A.M. - 8:30 P.M.)

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09206186282

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APARTMENT

LAGUNA

3Dr 2Sty Apt. Metroville Sta. Rosa Laguna P1.9M Neg. Popoy 09175441746

LOT

PARANAQUE

MULTINATIONAL
P4800/m^2 NEG
9415641/09162080746

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA 216m^2 P3,473/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 25

LAS PINAS

Golden Acres 556m^2 5T/m^2 DBO Mina 724-1297/0917-3284755

MAKATI

SAN LAZARO VILL. 7001393

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m^2 P4,054/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

1000m^2 Nr Munoz wide road cor lot 15T/m^2 Neg 645-3731

BLUERIDGE 292m^2 724-6334

VILLA ESPANA LA 108 50m^2 P12,000/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY LA 240m^2 P3,125/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

VILLA LIGAYA LA 149m^2 & 134m^2 P3,534/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

RUSH SALE Canyon Woods 460m^2 Prime cor. Lot Ph1 8712525/09178933598 Denny

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Complete facilities & equipment!
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LOT

OTHER PROVINCIAL

BAGUIO CITY LOAKAN ROAD Nr corner Airport Road Front Elem. School 1,670sqm/T741-5381

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA 613m^2 P2,284/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m^2 P180/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA 180m^2 P2,900/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

161m^2 METROSOUTH GEN TRIAS P2600/m^2 Tel.#0919-8736072

375sqm Orchard Dasma near Aguinaldo Hi-way (046)4313822 0916-4714455

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA 128m^2 P2,900/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST CHARBEL DASMA LA 371m^2 P2,650/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA 120m^2 P5,750/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m^2 LA 240m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 25 / 27

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BULACAN

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Office Space Mkti w/parking 308 & 169 & 250sqm Nice Loc. Tel.No. 8192056 /8130080-89 Look for Sally

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RESORT

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22Lots Fr. 3M, H/L 16 up
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HOUSE

MAKATI

Alng JP Rizl or Guad P7T/No 8214661

QUEZON CITY

FVIEW 3BR2TB 9220341

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

AIRY STUD Primetown 47sqm Morning Sun Semi furn Kalayaan Ave Mkti Safe area Bank + Laundrymat walking distance Rockwell 2 min to Mkti Ave 0917-9326539

Makati-Legaspi Village Windsor Twr 2BR TB UNFN W/Prkng 22T neg • 910-1903

MANILA

PASAY 35m^2 1BR w/TB P8T/mo 9203547 / 09273810609

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TH Sucat 4BR 4TB 826-1150

PASIG

3Bedrm Condo Unit Amberland Plaza Grace/Shirley 8109713 Residential Commercial Use

9F Renaissance 3000 Meralco Ave. New 80sqm 1BR 2TB Furn 1 Prkg Slot P25T 0918-9251136 / 8097064

QUEZON CITY

3Bedroom Twnhse Wedgewood Heights Grace/Shirley 8709713

SAN JUAN

Ghills FF Stu P11T 929-9835

APARTMENT

MAKATI

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MANDALUYONG

845 Samat St., Mand. City
Tel. # 5337709 to 12

QUEZON CITY

2br P6,600 Proj. 8 453-4213

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PGM Building Comm'l & Aprt 1026 Belin St Paco Mla beside Paco Park Call 5221445 ; 4981053

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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Rm TB Philam QC 9265582

Studio SAN ANDRES 5631584

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LADY Bedspacers 422-9030 back of Stella Maris, Cubao

BUSINESS RENTAL

MAKATI nr BUENDIA
PTamo 62/148/185m^2 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

QUEZON CITY

36sqm New nr Timog QC Col 09179213277, 3731623 Elfy

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FOR LEASE
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CONDO/TWNHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

QUEZON CITY

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Rent to Own Twnhse 2stry 3BR 2TB nr Congressional Avenue QC P2.65M Brokers Welcome 4266965 ; 4251508

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'98MUSSO CMC DSL A/T 440neg 4300282/09175208013

NISSAN

'97 Cefiro 0920-9251308

TOYOTA

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RUSH '92 Corolla XE 15mags 130T neg DBO 09178354797

VAN/PICK-UP

97 & 96 Trooper 1999 HIGH LUX SURF 09174785594 / 8445800

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1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

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Cars Vans Altis 825-4058

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8969956

•L300 Toyota Revo 9139185•

L300 VAN 8738947 09163443087.

MB100 Van 6285392 6437397

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

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CAR LOAN

.1.5% CARLOAN 533-8254

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

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•1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

BUSN DRS OFW 524-3197

1.5% 1HR CAR LOAN3743803

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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Fully Paid Educ Plan 7800106 / 09177939632

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GARAGE SALE Apr 4 9-4pm
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PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

GRet M 1.5yo prvn 7T F
. GRet 3yo prvn 7T F black
Lab 3yo prvn 7T 7121623

*PUGS "WRINKLED" 3725231

SHARPEI PUPS US 3725231

SHARPEI PUPS US 3725231
*PUGS "WRINKLED"3725231

SHIH TZU PUPS 812-3216?

TEACUP CHIHUAHUA RARE COLORS TEL # 8212540

PCCI

Please be informed that the PCCI office will be CLOSED from April 5-10, 2004 in observance of the LENTEN SEASON

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late VICENTA DE VILLA SR & CONSUELO DE VILLA of San Juan Batangas was Adjudicated settled to his only heir as per Doc No. 447, Page No. 01, Book No. XXXVII Series of 2004 of Notary Public Antoliny Oliva Marikina City.
(PDI-April 4, 11, 18, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that the stock certificate no. C0562 of Becco Phils. Inc. at Orchard Golf & Country Club got lost. If no contest received new stock certificate will be issued.
(PDI-March 28,April 4&11, 2004)

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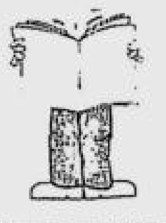

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

PHILIPPINE 2000

17 March 2004

INVITATION TO BID

PARCEL TWO (2) WEST SIDE
Welfareville Property

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE for the Welfareville Property, through the Welfareville Development Project Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC), is inviting interested parties to participate in the bidding for the sale of a portion of the Welfareville property located in Mandaluyong City known as **Parcel Two-West Side** with an approximate area of 288,770 square meters.

Interested parties shall submit their Letters of Intent on **April 20, 2004** not later than 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon and address the same to:

The Chairperson
Welfareville Development Project
Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC)
c/o Asset Management Group, Ground Floor
DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills
Diliman, Quezon City

The Bid Documents/Terms of Reference (TOR) for the sale of said Parcel Two shall be ready for distribution on **March 22, 2004** to **April 19, 2004** at a non-refundable cost of Php5,000.00 for each set of Bid Documents/TOR payable to DSWD in cash or manager/s check. The Bid Documents/TOR shall be obtained from **Ms. Ma. Suzette M. Agcaoili, CESO III, Director IV, Asset Management Group** at the abovementioned address, telefax no. 931-9145 or tel no. 931-8101 loc. 142.

Two Pre-Bid Conference shall be held, the first on **April 20, 2004** and the second on **April 27, 2004**. Both shall be held at 2:01 o'clock in the afternoon at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City. Only those who have submitted Letter of Intent and secured the Bid Documents/TOR shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of bids is May 26, 2004, 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon. Immediately thereafter, or at 2:01 o'clock in the afternoon, the bids shall be opened. Submission of bids and opening thereof shall be at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City.

The **TRUSTEE COMMITTEE**, through the WDP-BAC, reserves the right to reject any or all Letters of Intent or bids without offering any reason, waive any defect or required formality therein, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a bidder for any expenses or losses that he may have incurred in the preparation of the Letter of Intent or bid or resulting from such preparation, and accept the bid which is deemed most responsive and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **MYLENE G. ALBANO**
Assistant Secretary, DENR
Chairperson, WDP-BAC

(PDI - March 28, April 4 & 11, 2004)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

DepED

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax [illegible]
Direct Line [illegible]
Trunk Line 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address [illegible] deped.gov.ph
Website http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

HNC 04-03-30

The Department of Education through the Health and Nutrition Center is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Supply and Delivery of Mercurial Sphygmomanometer, Aneroid Sphygmomanometer and Stethoscopes. The approved budget for the supply and delivery shall be P1,330,000.00.

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) starting April 5-23, 2004 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph.

A pre-bid conference will be held on April 20, 2004, 10:00 a.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. 1, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on May 4, 2004 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI-April 4 & 11, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Division Office of North Cotabato
Kidapawan City

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : April 3, 2004
Loan No. : PH P200
IFB No. : SEDIP-2004-FURN-JBIC

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for Supply and Delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Division of North Cotabato invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of School Furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, and library at the 21 secondary schools in the seven (7) municipalities under the Division of North Cotabato.
3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantity of all the furniture items intended for the schools in the Division of North Cotabato per Schedule of Requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents from the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Division of North Cotabato, Kidapawan City at telefax numbers (064) 4212691, (064) 2784144 or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph or the Procurement Service at http://www.procurement service.org.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on April 12, 2004 upon submission of Letter of Intent to the above and payment to the DepEd Division Office cashier of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos only (P300.00).
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of not less than two percent (2%) of the total bid amount must be delivered to Office of the Bids and Awards Committee Division of North Cotabato not later than 10:00 a.m. on April 26, 2004 at which time, date and place, said bids will be opened for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held at the address indicated in paragraph 6 on April 19, 2004, at 10:00 a.m.
8. The DepEd Division Office of North Cotabato concerned reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) **MA. ROSA C. GUTIERREZ**
Chairperson, Division Bids
and Awards Committee

(PDI-April 4 & 11, 2004)

NOTICE OF OUTSTANDING WARRANT OF ARREST

This is to notify the public that **Ms. LEONOR MOSCARDON-NOLASCO** is no longer connected with KTK Fujikura Philippines, Inc. (the "Company"). A criminal case for Estafa was filed by the Company against **Ms. LEONOR MOSCARDON-NOLASCO** in 1999 and the case is still pending in the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City for which a Warrant of Arrest remains outstanding in her name. Any person who can provide information that will lead the Authorities to the apprehension of Ms. Nolasco shall be rewarded by the Company. *

* Please contact Atty. Purisimo S. Buyco of Picazo Buyco Tan Fider and Santos Law Offices at 888 0999.

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I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthian 5:8

Dr. Hermenegildo Edaño La 'O, Jr.

He is survived by his wife **Luming**; children and children-in-law **Boy & Leny**, **Bobot & Ducle**, **Ida**, **Yen & Alfred**, **Teng & Gladys**; and grandchildren **Niccolo, Arlyn, Pauline, Maica, Kiko, Keena, Gamby, Anton, Aldo, Alyn, Paolo, Karina, Jeo & Bernadette.**

Relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Mount Carmel Church, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., New Manila, Quezon City and will be brought home on Tuesday, April 6, 2004 to Lucena City for our night vigil at the Holy Rosary Chapel.

Interment will follow at the family mausoleum at Old Lucena Cemetery on Wednesday, April 7, 2004, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at St. Ferdinand's Cathedral.

In peace I shall both lie down and sleep,
For You alone, Lord, make me secure. (Psalm 4:9)

MANUEL CRUZ PAGLINÁWAN

Manoling now peacefully rests in the infinite grace and goodness of our Lord since Friday, the 2nd of April, 2004 at the age of 71.

His loving wife **Letty Tiosejo**; children **Tinette & Daniel Silos**, **Alex**, and **Leah & Vonn de Vera**; grandchildren **John-J**, **David**, & **Isabelle Silos**, and **Alyssa de Vera**; brothers and sisters **Carlit† & Leny (Cruz)**, **Ely† & Annie (Montinola)**, **Rose & Emmett† Brown**, and **Patsy**; brothers- and sisters-in-law **Paquito & Yoly (Cabreza)**, **Aida & Mito Francisco**, **Nardy† & Elena† (Francisco)**, **Mellie & Dulce Franco**, and **Tony & Tessie (Tiosejo)**, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains will be at the Capilla de la Virgen, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati beginning this afternoon. To celebrate his birth to eternal life, a final memorial mass will be celebrated on Tuesday evening, the 6th of April.

In lieu of flowers, love offerings for charity given in his name will be greatly appreciated.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

ROSARIO DELA CRUZ GARCIA

March 16, 1940 – April 2, 2004

Her husband **CELSO SD GARCIA** (†)

Children : **CONNIE** and **RAYMOND**, **SUSAN** and **BOY**, **DORIS** and **PABLO**, **KAREN**, **RANNIE**, **MARIE**, **MEO** and **NANIE**
Grandchildren : **ROMA**, **JR** and **TAMMY**, **ANDREW**, **RR**, **MICO**, **CHRISTIAN**, **NICOLE**, **GABBY**, **AJ** and **SAMANTHA**
Sisters : **BABY**, **INA** and **DISAY**

other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Guzman Memorial Chapel, Sto. Niño, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 6, 2004 at the Holy Child Memorial Park, J.P. Rizal St., Concepcion, Marikina after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Our Lady of Abandon Parish Church, San Roque, Marikina.

"Only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life; I will dwell in the house of the Lord for the years to come..."
Psalm 23:6

Ma. Lourdes Espino Jose

Peacefully joined our Lord and her loving husband ***Ruben*** *on March 25, 2004 at the age of 80, in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.*

She is survived by her beloved children **Buddy** and wife **Lita**, **Jocelyn** and husband **Walter**, **Edwin** and wife **Annabellie**, **Joey** and wife **Edna**, **Gina** and husband **Jon**, and **Joanna** and husband **Cesar**; grandchildren **Karina** and husband **Ed**, **Katherine**, **Biboy** and wife **Rosemary**, **Allan**, **Gino**, and **Ysabella**; great grandchildren **Binggay**, **Bam-Bam**, **Tin-Tin**, **Kookie**, **Kandy**, **JJ**, **Cheska**, **AV**, and **Naomi**.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, April 6, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS

A Bag Manufacturing Company
is looking for the following:

1) **Secretary** — Acctg. or any related course w/ 2-3 years experience (Payroll, Payables, SSS/BIR/Philhealth)
2) **Account Executive** — Marketing or any related course w/ at least 2-3 years exp. in corporate give-aways
3) **Production Assistant** — Industrial Eng. grad. w/ at least 2-3 years exp. in a bag mfg. firm
4) **Bag Sewer** — Experience in bag sewing
5) **Cutter/Pattern Maker** – With 2-3 years experience

Please send your resume with recent picture to:
100 Kaingin Road, Balintawak, Quezon City.

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) is inviting bidders for:

DESCRIPTION	Approved Budget	Bidding Fee
Supply of Laminated Reflective Glass	1.5 million	3,000.00

Source of Funding: **PHC FUNDS**

The list of eligibility requirements will be issued at the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, Purchasing Division, Basement of MAB, PHC, East Avenue, Quezon City. Only eligible bidders shall be required to pay the non-refundable bidding fee. The deadline for the submission of requirements is on **May 3, 2004** not later than 4 00 p.m. For any inquiry, please call Purchasing Divison at tel. no. 922-0574 ask for Ms Noemi Nocasa.

The PHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids or declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract, if there is evidence of collusion between relevant public officers or employees of the PHC and any of the bidders, or among the bidders, or between bidders and third parties, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. The agency also reserves the right to waive any formality on the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid or any requirement provided for in the **Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)** of Republic Act No. 9184 pertaining to the substance of the bid. Should such review uncover any misrepresentation made in the eligibility statement, or any chages in the situation of the bidder materially downgrade the substance of such statements, the PHC shall disqualify the bidder upon due notice without any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by it in the preparation of its bids.

(Sgd.) **RAUL D. JARA, M.D.**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - April 3, 4, 11 & 12, 2004)

MORE CLASSIFIED ADS ON PAGE B4

UNDP

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLY OF GOODS FOR THE RELOCATION OF OFFICES OF UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES IN THE PHILIPPINES FROM NEDA SA MAKATI BUILDING TO THE 30TH, 31ST, & PART OF 29TH FLOORS *OF RCBC YUCHENGCO TOWER, AYALA AVENUE, MAKATI CITY*

In compliance with the Secretary General's UN Reform Programme, the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) System in the Philippines, consisting of all UN agencies present in the country, has undertaken steps to harmonize common services among the UN Agencies in the Philippines. Among other areas, the relocation to a common UN premises where the agencies can achieve better security for all its staff is being jointly implemented on the basis of inter-agency cooperation.

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Philippine Country Office, for and on behalf of all UN Agencies of the Philippines, would like to invite contractors suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following needs/requirements of the UN Agencies in the Philippines in connection with their proposed relocation.

Contract Packages	Cost of Bid Document in PhP (Non-Refundable)
1. Main Contract Works (Interior Fit-out and Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) Services)	10,000.00
2. Workstations & Filing Cabinets	5,000.00
3. Seatings	1,000.00
4. Storage Cabinets And Compactus	1,000.00
5. Carpet	1,000.00
6. Loose Furniture	500.00
7. Telecommunication Structured Cabling	500.00
8. Security and Access Control System	500.00
9. Blinds	500.00

Interested bidders may submit bid proposals for any one or all of the above-mentioned contracts.

For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference and all drawings) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount indicated in the above from the following address :

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier)
Tel. No. (632) 892 06 11 loc. 275
Fax No. (632) 816 40 61 / 893 2610 /1864061
E-mail address : bc admin.ph@undp.org

International suppliers are encouraged to appoint and authorize Philippine-based counterparts to secure the bidding documents and submit proposals for and in their behalf.

The abovementioned Bidding Documents will be released to all interested parties strictly from **6– 15 April 2004 only.** The Bidding Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates, other schedules and requirements.

Bids must be delivered to the address below until 12:00 Noon of 7 May 2004. Late bids will be rejected Pre-bid conferences for Contracts 1 and 2 will be conducted at the Romulo Hall, Ground Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building, on 16 April 2004, 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM, respectively.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP based on UNDP criteria. UNDP assumes no obligation or responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made for this Contract.

(Sgd) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

(PDI--Apr 4 & 5, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

VARIOUS COMPUTER EQUIPMENT, BULK PURCHASE OF MEDICINES & COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR LIEBERT EQUIPMENT

The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** is inviting bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following items.

1. Supply and delivery of 162 units PC Workstation, 112 units Laser Printer and 55 units Dot Matrix Printer for the Accounts Monitoring System

Approved Budget for the Contract:

• 162 units PC Workstation	P	5,900,000.00
• 112 units Laser Printer	P	2,460,000.00
• 55 units Dot Matrix Printer	P	467,500.00
TOTAL	P	8,827,500.00

Source of Fund : CY2004 Interim Budget for Capital Expenditures – Computer Operations Hardware Requirements
Contract Duration : 30 calendar days

2. Bulk Purchase of Medicines & Medical Supplies for the 1st semester CY2004

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P6,000,000.00
Source of Funds : CY2004 Interim Budget for Supplies & Materials - Medical
Contract Duration : Fifteen (15) Calendar Days

Prospective bidders/suppliers must be:
2.1 registered with the Bureau of Food and Drug
2.2 able to present authenticated certificates of their product registration from the Bureau of Food and Drug
2.3 in the pharmaceutical business for at least seven (7) years

3. Comprehensive Maintenance of the following equipment.
3.1 One (1) unit 20TR capacity Liebert brand Precision Aircon System installed at the COD, Ground Floor, SSS Main Building
3.2 Two (2) units 30KVA Liebert S7200 UPS and two (2) units 24TR capacity Liebert brand Precision Aircon System installed at the Business Recovery Center (BRC), Aurora Milestone Building, Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City

Prospective bidders should have at least three (3) years of experience on Preventive Maintenance of Liebert brand Precision Air-conditioning System and UPS equipment and has adequate certified personnel, tools and equipment to perform the required services.

Particulars	1 unit 20TR Liebert Precision Aircon at COD	2 units 30KVA Liebert UPS & 2 units 24TR Liebert Precision Aircon at BRC
Approved Budget for the Contract	P221,650.00	P2,743,125.00
Contract Duration	Five (5) Years	Five (5) Years
Source of Funds	M/R – Furniture & Equipment (with service contract)	M/R – Furniture & Equipment (with service contract)

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Particulars	Date	Venue
Issuance of eligibility requirements	April 05-20, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg
Deadline of submission of eligibility requirements • Item#1 • Item#2 • Item#3	 April 23, 2004 April 26, 2004 April 27, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee • Item#1 (P5,000.00) • Item#2 (P5,000.00) • Item#3.1 (P500.00) • Item#3.2 (P1,000.00)	 April 27, 2004 April 28, 2004 April 29, 2004 April 29, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg
Pre-bid Conference • Item#1 • Item#2 • Item#3	 April 28, 2004, 2:00p.m. April 29, 2004, 2:00p.m. April 30, 2004, 2:00p.m.	Bidding Room, 6th Flr., SSS Main Bldg.
Submission & Opening of Bids shall be announced and confirmed through a Bid Bulletin		

For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491

This bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - April 4, 2004)

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
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Sales@heritagepark.com.ph
Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

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RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Dearly Remembered – Lovingly Missed
On her
SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

SOCORRO MEDINO SIOZON

"CORING"
of Tacloban City
May 26, 1920 – April 5, 2002

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at the following churches on Monday, April 5, 2004:

- **Sacred Heart Parish** *Tacloban City* .... 5:00 a.m.
- **St. Joseph Parish** *Dagami, Leyte* .... 5:30 a.m.
- **Our Lady of Lourdes Parish** *V&G, Tacloban City* .... 5:30 a.m.
- **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** *Tacloban City* .... 5:30 p.m.
- **St. Joseph Parish** *San Jose, Tacloban City* .... 6:00 a.m.
- **St. Jude Parish** *PHHC, Tacloban City* .... 6:00 a.m.
- **Sto. Niño Parish** *Tacloban City* .... 12:00 nn & 5:30 p.m.
- **Our Lady of Fatima Parish** *Tacloban City* .... 5:00 a.m.

We request those whose lives she has touched to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.
Lovingly remembered by her husband, children, in-laws, grandchildren, relatives and friends.

In Loving Memory of

Ma. Elena "Lenny" G. Yuchengco

(April 4, 1962 - February 25, 1998)

on her 42nd Birth Anniversary.

Her father, Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco and her family and loved ones request relatives and friends to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Holy Masses will be offered at:

Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City
on April 4, 2004 at 6:30 am, 7:45 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 nn and 4:30 pm

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, Humabon Place, Magallanes Village, Makati City
on April 4, 2004 at 7:00 am, 8:00 am, 9:00 pm, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 12:00 nn, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 8:00 pm and 9:00 pm

St. John Bosco Parish, Pasay Road, Makati City
on April 4, 2004 at 6:00 am, 7:30 am, 8:45 am, 10:00 am, 12:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 5:45 pm, 7:00 pm and 8:15 pm

---

Thank you for the moment that you have shared with us during our time of grief and in remembering our beloved

SERMA T. BELLEZA

February 13, 1959 - March 18, 2004
our deepest gratitude for all those who offered Masses & prayers, sent flowers and for your sympathy

---

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"Even when I walk
through a dark valley,
I feel no harm. For You
are at my side,
Your rod and staff
give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

In Loving Memory

BERNARDO D. MACAVENTA, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 1, 2004 at the age of 75.

His beloved wife **CONCHITA**; children **MARK** and **GISELLE**, **JOEL**, **VANESSA**, **AISHA** and **ROBERT**, **BERNARDO JR.**, and **ANDRE**; grandchildren **MIGO** and **LILAY**; brother and sisters request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Park (Chapel 4), Marikina City. Interment will be on Wednesday, April 7, 2004, at Loyola Memorial Park after the 8 a.m. Mass at Chapel 4.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ALFONSO (King Yao) DY CHUA

passed away on March 28, 2004
wish to express our sincerest thanks to our relatives and friends who offered flowers, prayers and condoled with us during the time of our bereavement.

"There is an appointed time
for everything, and a time
for every affair under the heaven..."
Ecclesiastes 3:11

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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12 G Araneta Avenue, Quezon City,
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ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C Raymundo St. cor Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave.,
Pasig City Tels 747-8599, 747-8600 • Telefax 641-1760

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243 A B Fernandez Ave. Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels (0785) 522-3451, 522-2128 (0917) 434-9976

CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G Araneta Ave., Quezon City
Tel 732-0309 732-1095

CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch A S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City,
Cebu. Tels 346-2543 346-2601

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug Cebu City. Tels 231-0721, 231-3192

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
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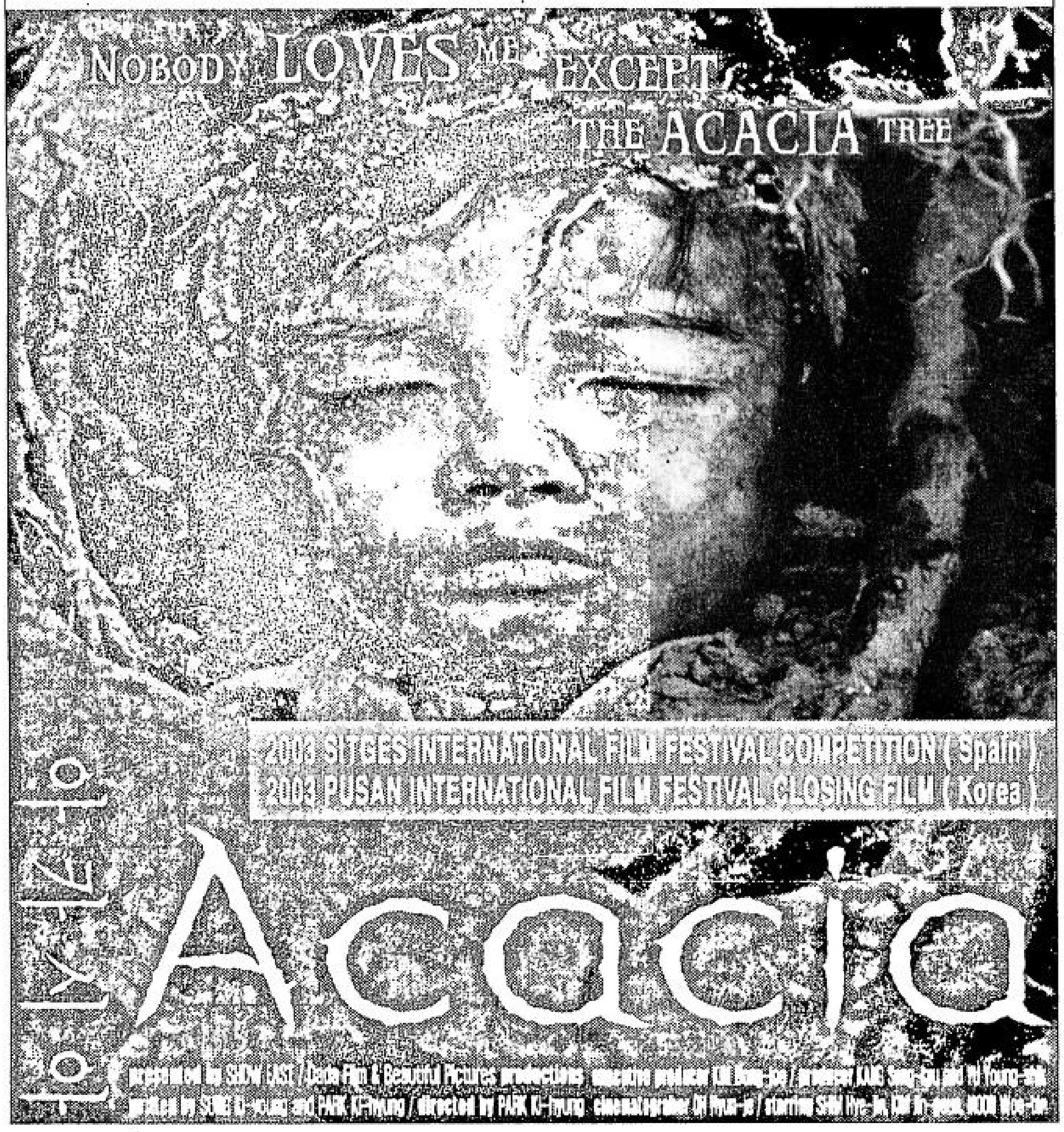
OPENS APRIL 14


NOBODY LOVES ME EXCEPT THE ACACIA TREE
2003 SITGES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL COMPETITION (Spain)
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Acacia

FLASH FLASH FLASH

WATCH THE SPECIAL TRAILER OF THIS BLOCKBUSTER MOVIE IN SELECTED THEATERS NATIONWIDE TODAY.

THE BIGGEST PICTURE FROM UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRODUCED AT A COST OF OVER US$200M.

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VAN HELSING
Coming in May 2004
UNIVERSAL

SM CINEMA

what to watch

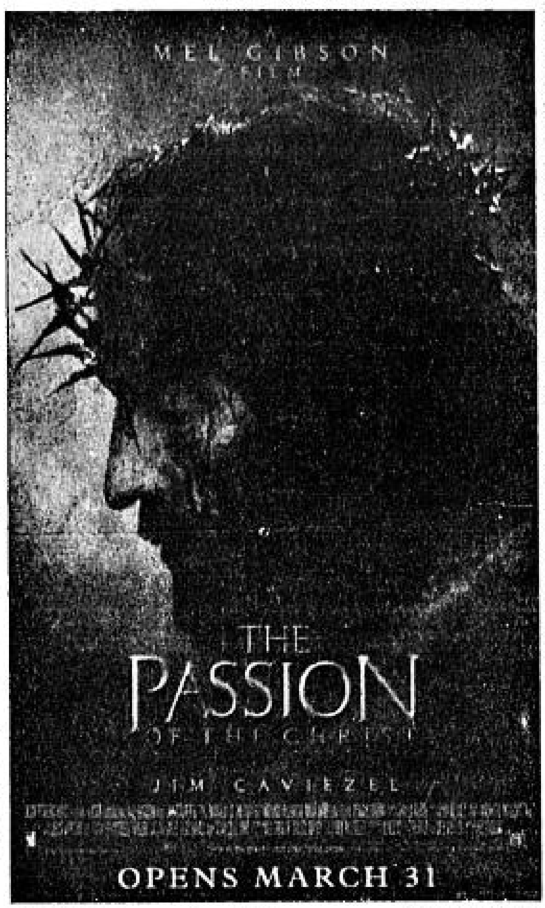
Drama

The Passion of the Christ

The Passion of the Christ is a film about the last twelve hours of Jesus of Nazareth's life. The film opens in the Garden of Olives (Gethsemane) where Jesus has gone to pray after the Last Supper. Jesus resists Satan's temptations.

Betrayed by Judas Iscariot, Jesus is arrested and taken back to within the city walls of Jerusalem where the leaders of the Pharisees confront him with accusations of blasphemy and his trial results in a condemnation of death.

now showing


MEL GIBSON FILM
THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
JIM CAVIEZEL
OPENS MARCH 31

DIAL 8339999 for screening schedules

MTRCB Rating . P13

Give the Gift of Entertainment. Give the SM Movie Cards.
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MTRCB RATING ▶ GP

For GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED.

THE TIMELESS STORY AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE...
PETER PAN

Must-see for Harry Potter, LOTR fans!

'PETER PAN,' PURE SCREEN MAGIC

Imagine a world where you can fly... where you never have to grow up or grow old.

Three major Hollywood studios – Columbia, Revolution & Universal Studios -- join forces to present an epic multi-million dollar live-action film filled with unbounded imagination, breath-taking adventure and dazzling visual effects.

Harry Potter and **Lord of the Rings** fans should not miss this enduring tale of heroism, magical discovery and fulfilled dreams.

Special Easter Presentation for the Family!

SNEAK PREVIEWS APRIL 5-7
REGULAR RUN BEGINS APRIL 10

COMING IN
AYALA CINEMAS
APRIL 14

TIM BURTON'S

BIG FISH

A father's story retold to his son so beautifully outlandish, it's impossible to seperate the fact from fiction, the man from the myth.

"With a fantastical visual style that could be called Felliniesque if Burton had not by now earned the right to the adjective Burtonesque"
— Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

AYALA CINEMAS
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EWAN McGREGOR
DANNY DE VITO
JESSICA LANGE

BIG FISH
AN ADVENTURE AS BIG AS LIFE ITSELF

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13

"The Best Family Film Of The Year!"
— CBS-TV

SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENINGS

of the timeless story as you've never seen it before at
the all-digital-sound

AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4
GREENBELT 1 & 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER

APRIL 5 (Mon.), 6 (Tue.) & 7 (Wed.)

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage

AYALA CINEMAS
LoveMall!

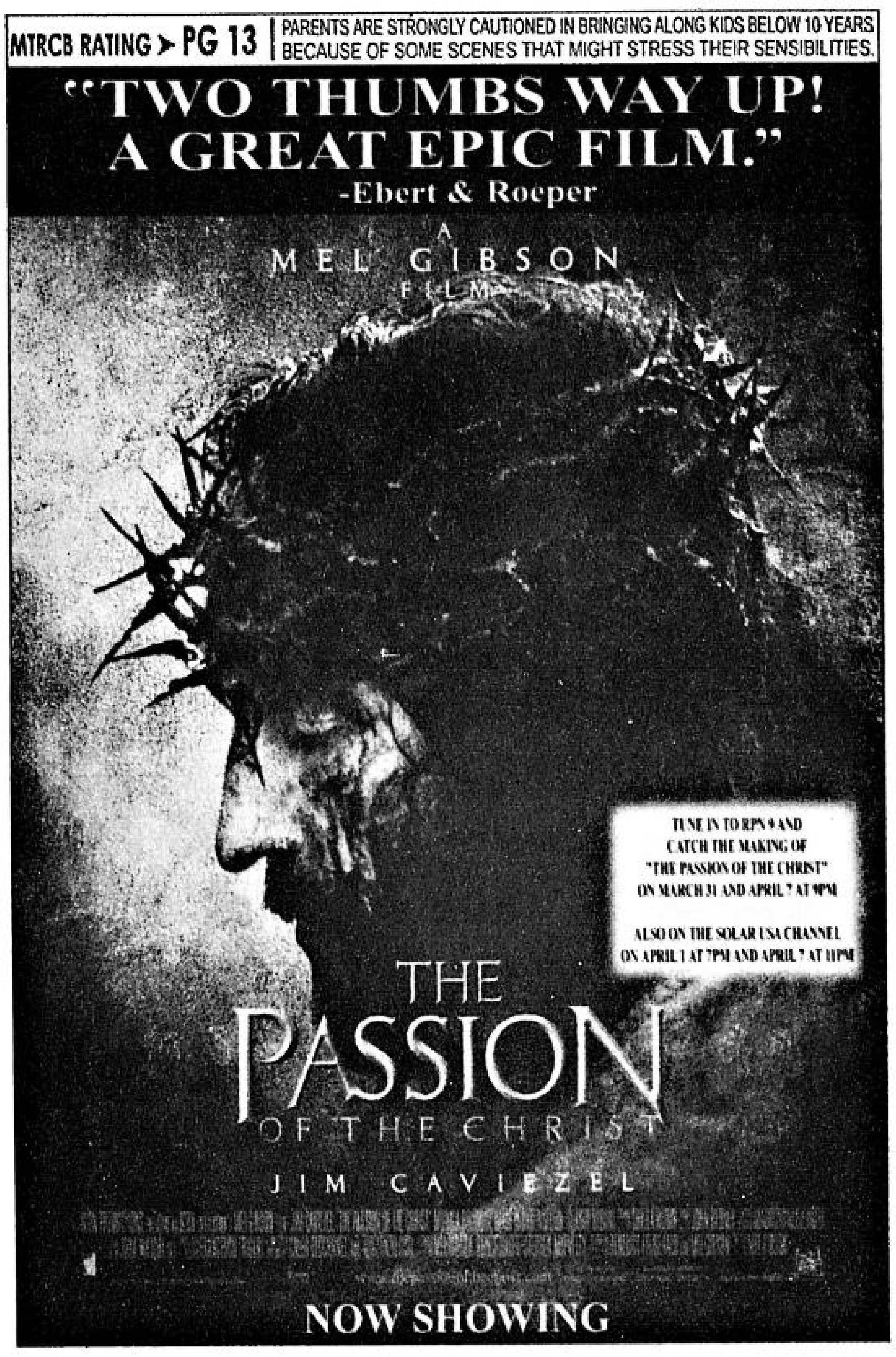
SCOOBY-DOO 2

NOW SHOWING AT AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS
Family Day

FREE
Face-painting and Balloon-twisting
at the Glorietta 4 cinema lobby
on April 3 & 4 from 3:00 - 6:00pm

Just present your Scooby-Doo 2 movie ticket
or a P200 new load / re-load Timezone powercard



MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | PARENTS ARE STRONGLY CAUTIONED IN BRINGING ALONG KIDS BELOW 10 YEARS BECAUSE OF SOME SCENES THAT MIGHT STRESS THEIR SENSIBILITIES.

"TWO THUMBS WAY UP! A GREAT EPIC FILM."
-Ebert & Roeper

A MEL GIBSON FILM

TUNE IN TO RPN 9 AND CATCH THE MAKING OF "THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST" ON MARCH 31 AND APRIL 7 AT 9PM

ALSO ON THE SOLAR USA CHANNEL ON APRIL 1 AT 7PM AND APRIL 7 AT 11PM

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

JIM CAVIEZEL

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

THE MOST EXPLOSIVE MOVIE EVENT OF THE YEAR!

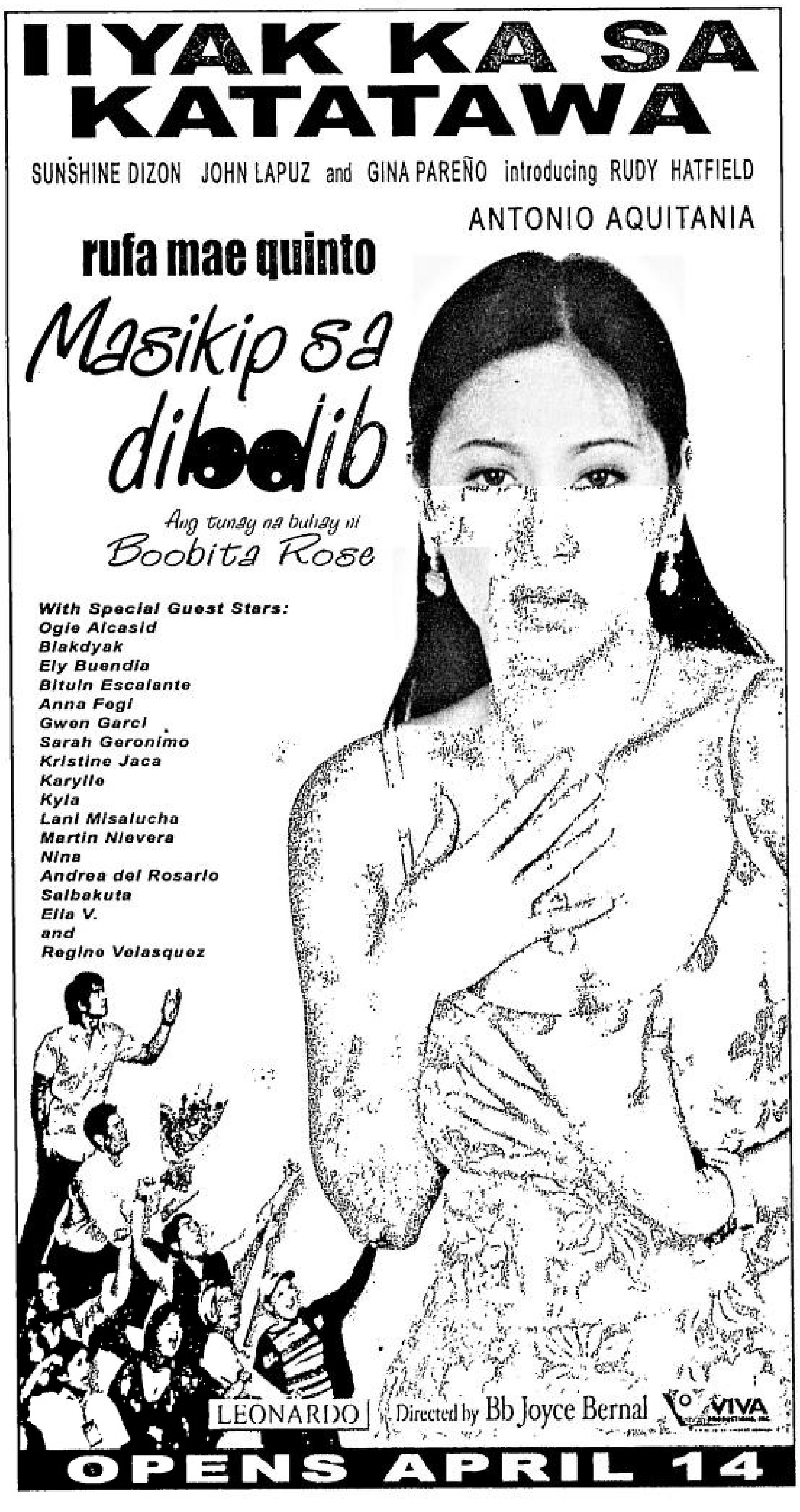
THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON A PAST HE WAS PAID TO FORGET.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE II AND FACE/OFF

BEN AFFLECK AARON ECKHART UMA THURMAN

PAYCHECK

OPENS APRIL 14



IIYAK KA SA KATATAWA

SUNSHINE DIZON JOHN LAPUZ and GINA PAREÑO introducing RUDY HATFIELD

ANTONIO AQUITANIA

rufa mae quinto

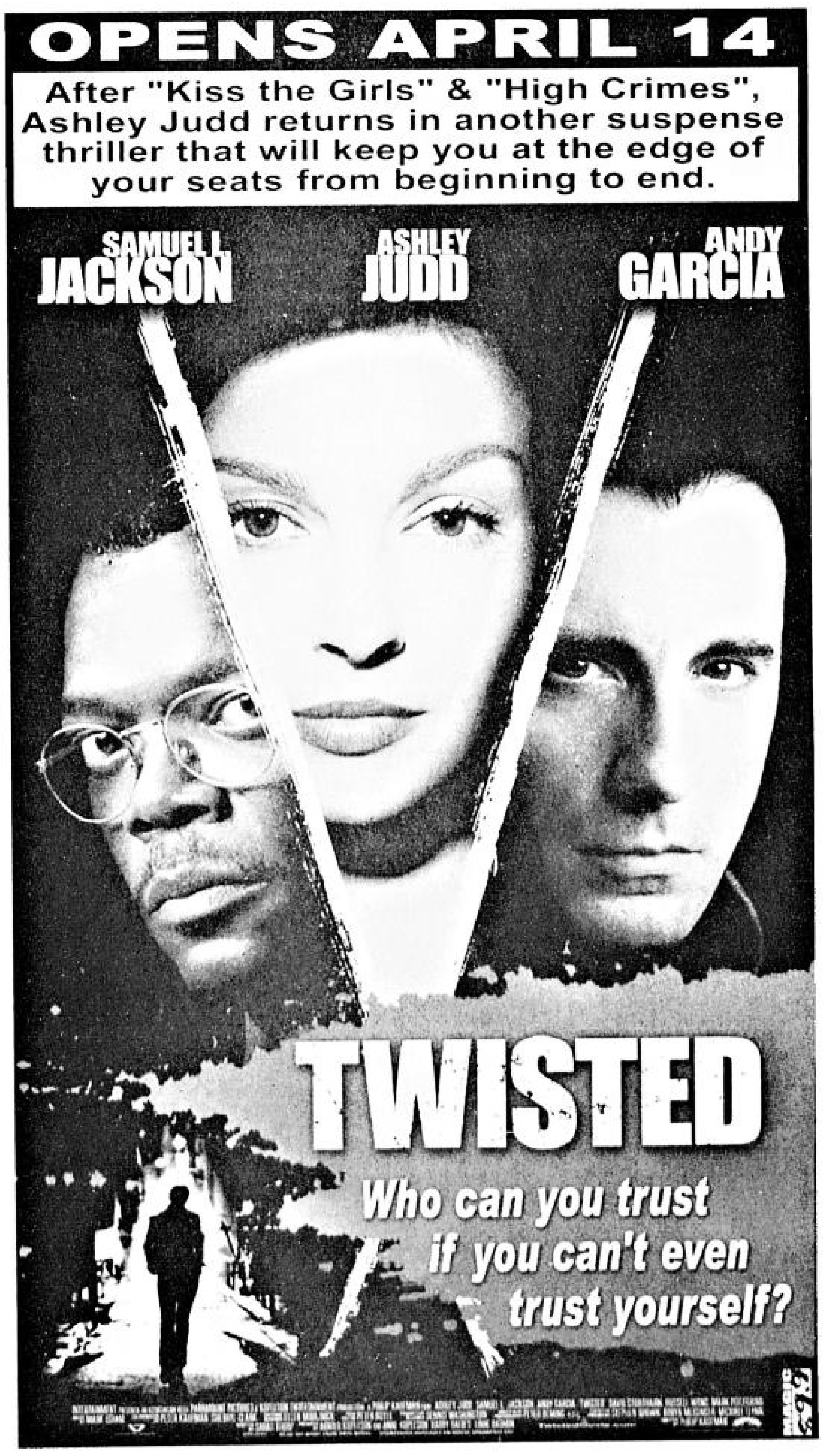
Masikip sa dibdib

Ang tunay na buhay ni Boobita Rose

With Special Guest Stars:
Ogie Alcasid
Blakdyak
Ely Buendia
Bituin Escalante
Anna Fegi
Gwen Garci
Sarah Geronimo
Kristine Jaca
Karylle
Kyla
Lani Misalucha
Martin Nievera
Nina
Andrea del Rosario
Salbakuta
Ella V.
and
Regine Velasquez

LEONARDO | Directed by Bb Joyce Bernal | VIVA

OPENS APRIL 14



OPENS APRIL 14

After "Kiss the Girls" & "High Crimes", Ashley Judd returns in another suspense thriller that will keep you at the edge of your seats from beginning to end.

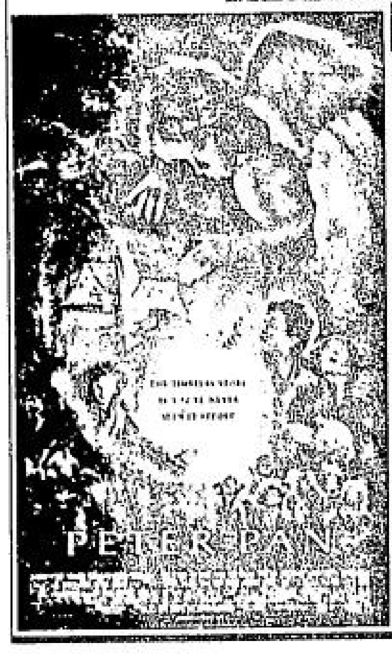
SAMUEL L. JACKSON ASHLEY JUDD ANDY GARCIA

TWISTED

Who can you trust if you can't even trust yourself?

SM CINEMA

special sneak preview

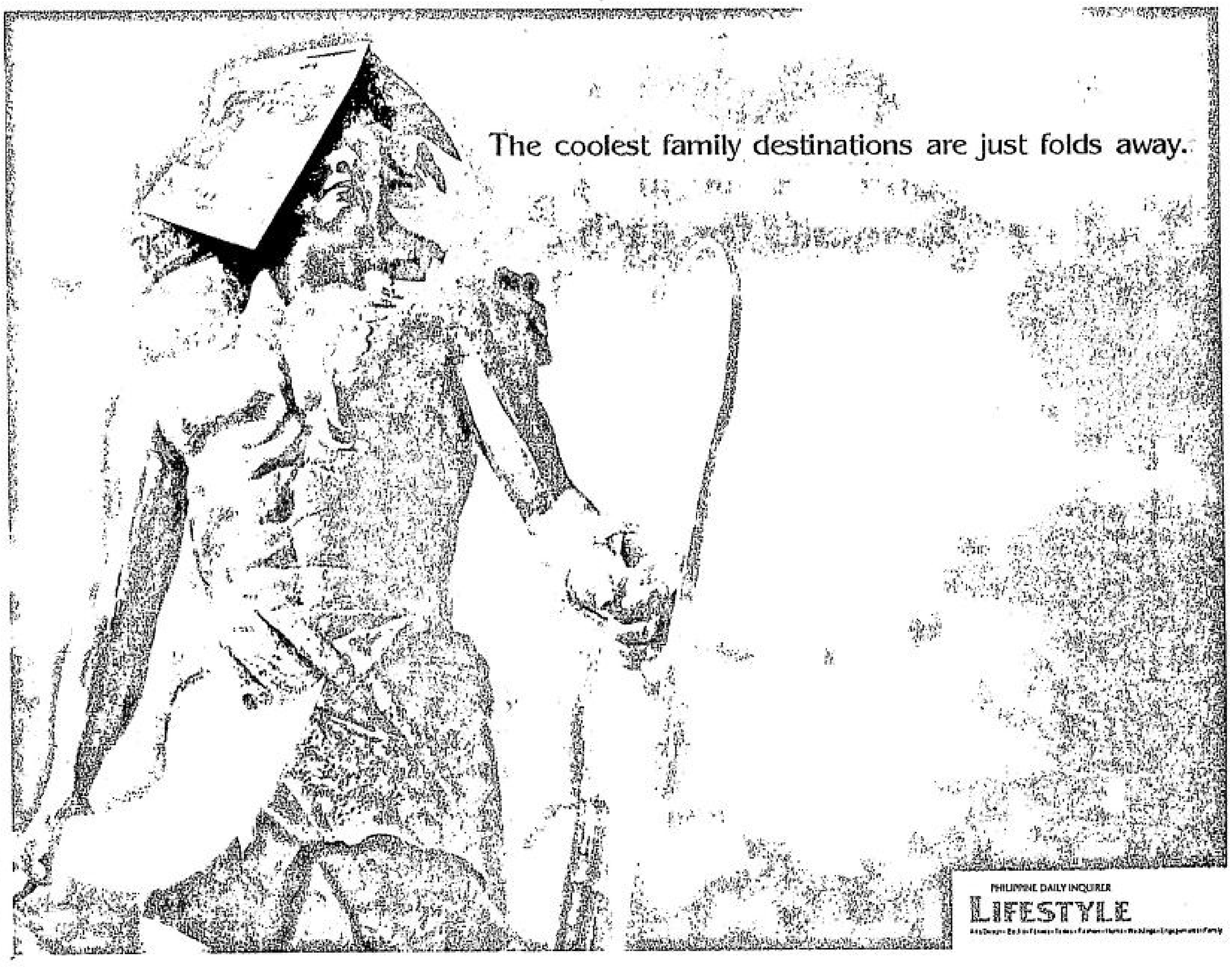


apr 5-7 2004

MTRCB RATING : GP

:: tickets available at ::
SM North Edsa | Megamall
Sta. Mesa | Fairview | Manila
Southmall | Sucat | Bacoor
Bicutan | Baguio

for screening schedules : 833 9999


The coolest family destinations are just folds away.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE

OPENS APRIL 10!

MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

TAKING LIVES

LEARN FILMMAKING THIS SUMMER AT MOWELFUND FILM INSTITUTE

MOWELFUND FILM INSTITUTE
25 YEARS
NCCA
PINOY ANIMAGINATION
Kodak SPONSORED EVENT

- MYTHS & PAINTINGS ANIMATION WORKSHOP Apr 14 - Jun 31
  with Pinoy Animagination
- COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP Apr 14 - 28
  with Luis and Rudy Chiong
- DIGITAL FILMMAKING WORKSHOP Apr 14 - May 24
  with Raymond Red, Nick Deocampo, Bing Lao, Larry Manda, Yam Laranas, Art Trofeo, Paolo Villaluna, Ricky Orellana, Randy Clepano
- BASIC CINEMATOGRAPHY WORKSHOP May 3 - 14
  with Lee Melly, Eric dela Cruz

enrolment ongoing
mon-fri / 1-5pm
deadline: Apr 7
for more details
please call or visit mfi
66 Rosario Drive,
Cubao, QC
tel 410 4545

Araneta Center ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX

Ali 3	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
Ali 4	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
Ali 5	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
Ali 6	SCOOBY DOO 2
Ali 7	OTSO OTSO

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL

Open Daily 4 PM to 10 PM

ARANETA COLISEUM

APR 4	PBA. GINEBRA VS. TALK 'N' TEXT
APR 8	OLPH RETREAT (7AM)/ SHALOM (1PM)
APR 9	OLPH RETREAT (7AM)/ SHALOM (1PM)
APR 10	OLPH RETREAT (7AM)/ SHALOM (2PM)
APR 11	PBA: FED EX VS. RED BULL
APR 13	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
APR 14	PBA: PUREFOODS VS. RED BULL
APR 15	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
APR 16	REWIND PLUS DOBLE REVO DOUBLE PREMYO

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

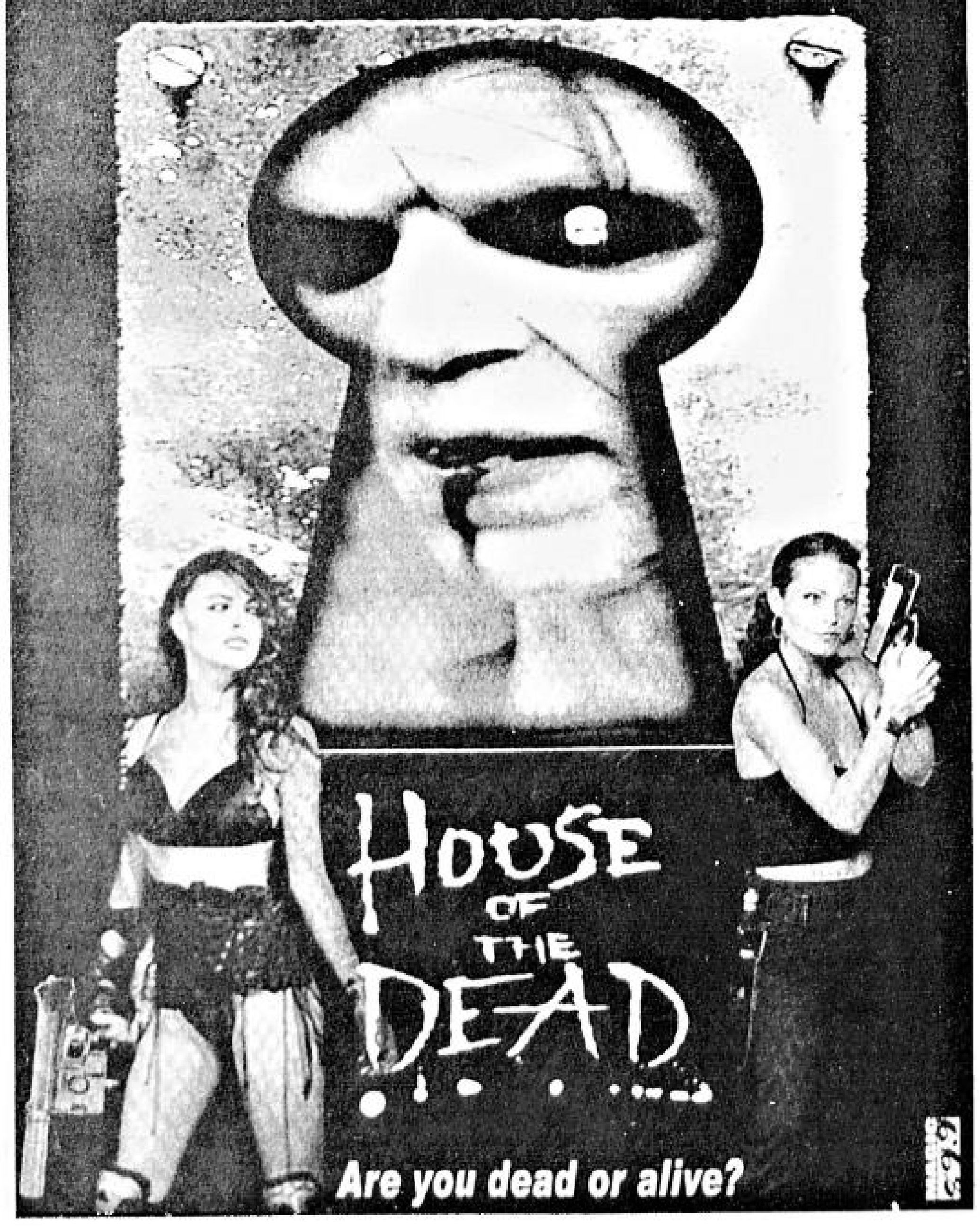
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB ▶ PG-13

Kung nagustuhan mo ang "UNDERWORLD", *mas grabe pa 'to sa aksiyon at katatakutan.*

From the company that gave you "UNDERWORLD."

HUMANS vs. ZOMBIES
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?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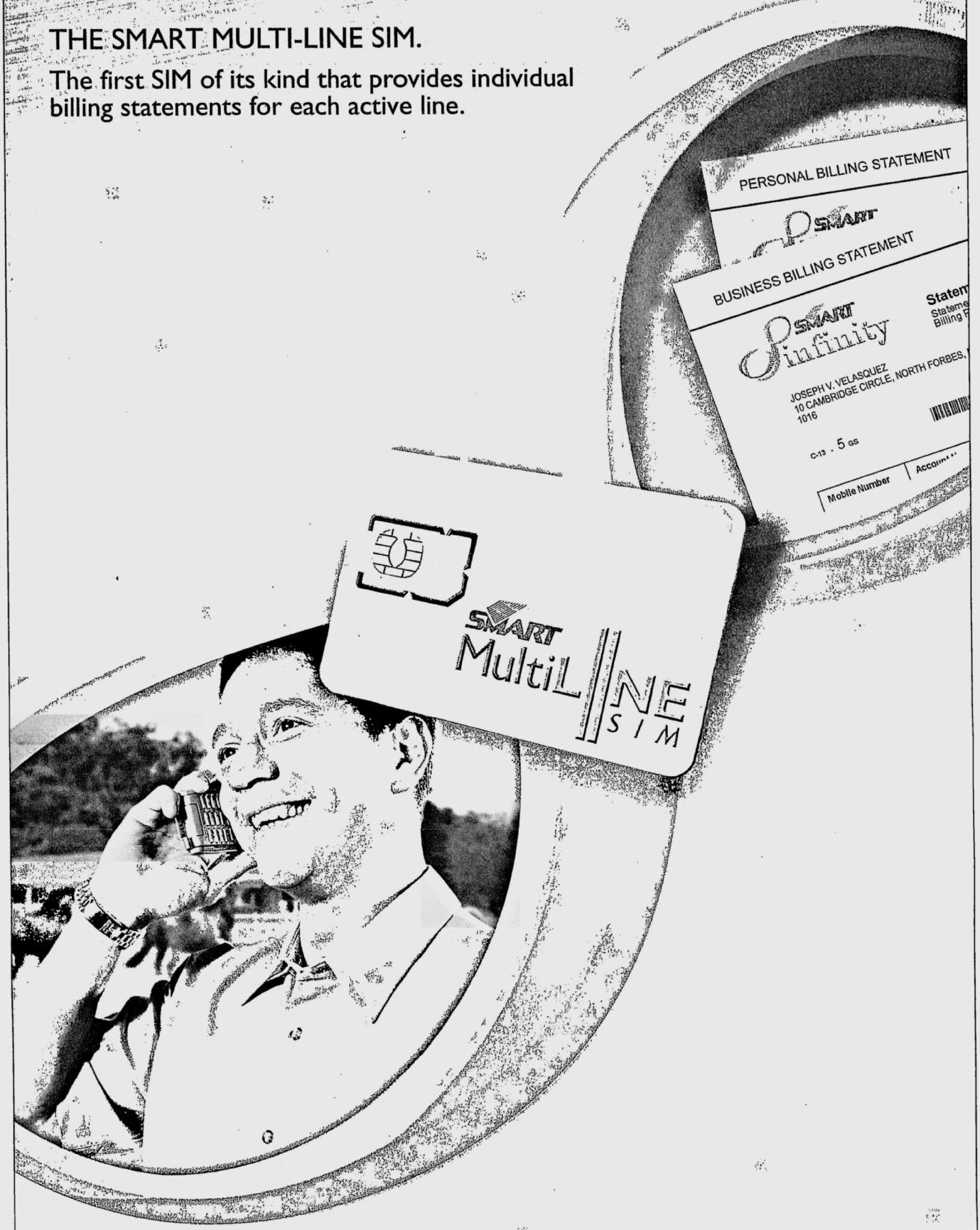
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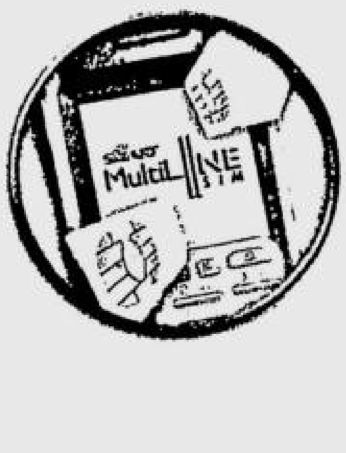
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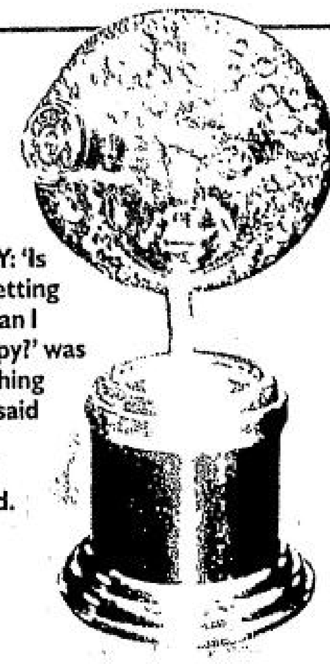
Editor **Louie C. Camino**



THE VESY: 'Is anyone getting this and can I have a copy?' was the first thing Ocampo said when he accepted the award.

Pinoy ex-GMA artist wins Hollywood's FX Oscar

OCAMPO: First Pinoy to win the Vesy for his work in the TV movie 'Helen of Troy.'

By Peachy Vibal-Guioguio
Contributor

HE WAS a visual artist for a Philippine network when he went to the United States four years ago on a tourist visa. Last February, Anthony Ocampo won the Visual Effects Society Award or "Vesy," the Oscar in the field of special effects animation.

The 2004 Vesy Awards ceremony last Feb. 18 at the Palladium in Hollywood was a gala black-tie event attended by such movie giants as directors James Cameron ("Titanic") and George Lucas ("Star Wars"), who were recipients of Vesy's Lifetime Awards.

Ocampo became the first Filipino to win the Vesy in the category Outstanding Models and Miniatures in a Televised Program, Music Video or Commercial.

With his winning work in the TV movie "Helen of Troy," he bested television's very popular "Battlestar Gallactica," "Buffy," "Walking with Dinosaurs" and "Children of Dune."

Jogging to the stage

"It was a true case of David and Goliath," Ocampo told this writer days after his Vesy victory. "I didn't expect to win because I had just watched the remake of 'Battlestar Galactica' and the effects were extraordinary."

He recalled that when his name was announced during the Vesy show, he literally jogged to the stage to accept his award "because I felt my legs were going." Once on stage, the first thing that the stuttering winner said was, "Is anyone getting this and can I have a copy?" This obviously delighted the audience, which included hundreds of visual effects professionals, entertainment industry luminaries and guests.

Only 20 Vesy awards were presented for excellence in visual effects in feature films, television, commercials, and music videos.

Voting for 'Helen'

He admitted that although he did not expect to win, he somehow felt an inkling that lady luck was smiling on him the night of Feb. 18 at the Hollywood Palladium. "I had met many of the Vesy members during the awards dinner and they all said they voted for 'Helen,'" he said.

For "Helen," a movie made for TV by John Kent Harrison, Ocampo had to model and texture the Trojan horse in two weeks (doing the artwork entirely in a Wildcat 4 7110 software). It took him another month and a half to put the horse in the shots and to light it.

"My major concern was making the horse realistic enough to compete with and blend seamlessly with live action," he explained.

He toiled incessantly to make the horse look great because the overall production had been done so well and he couldn't afford to let the whole movie fall apart just because the main element—the horse in this Homeric epic—was done haphazardly.

GMA station IDs

Before he went to the US, Ocampo was working at GMA Network Inc. as a 3D graphic artist. He created the TV station's weather report graphics. He was also involved in the making of the GMA station IDs that were used in the network's monumental coverage of the worldwide Millennium Event as the year 2000 arrived.

Together with his wife Bryna and their son AJ, Ocampo flew to the US in June 2000. He was armed only with a tourist visa and a strong determination to make it in the land of opportunity.

"I took a huge risk in quitting my job at GMA even when I had a family to support and I did not have a job waiting for me in the US," said Ocampo, who is only in his late 20s, and whom former colleagues at GMA still remember as an "easygoing" guy.

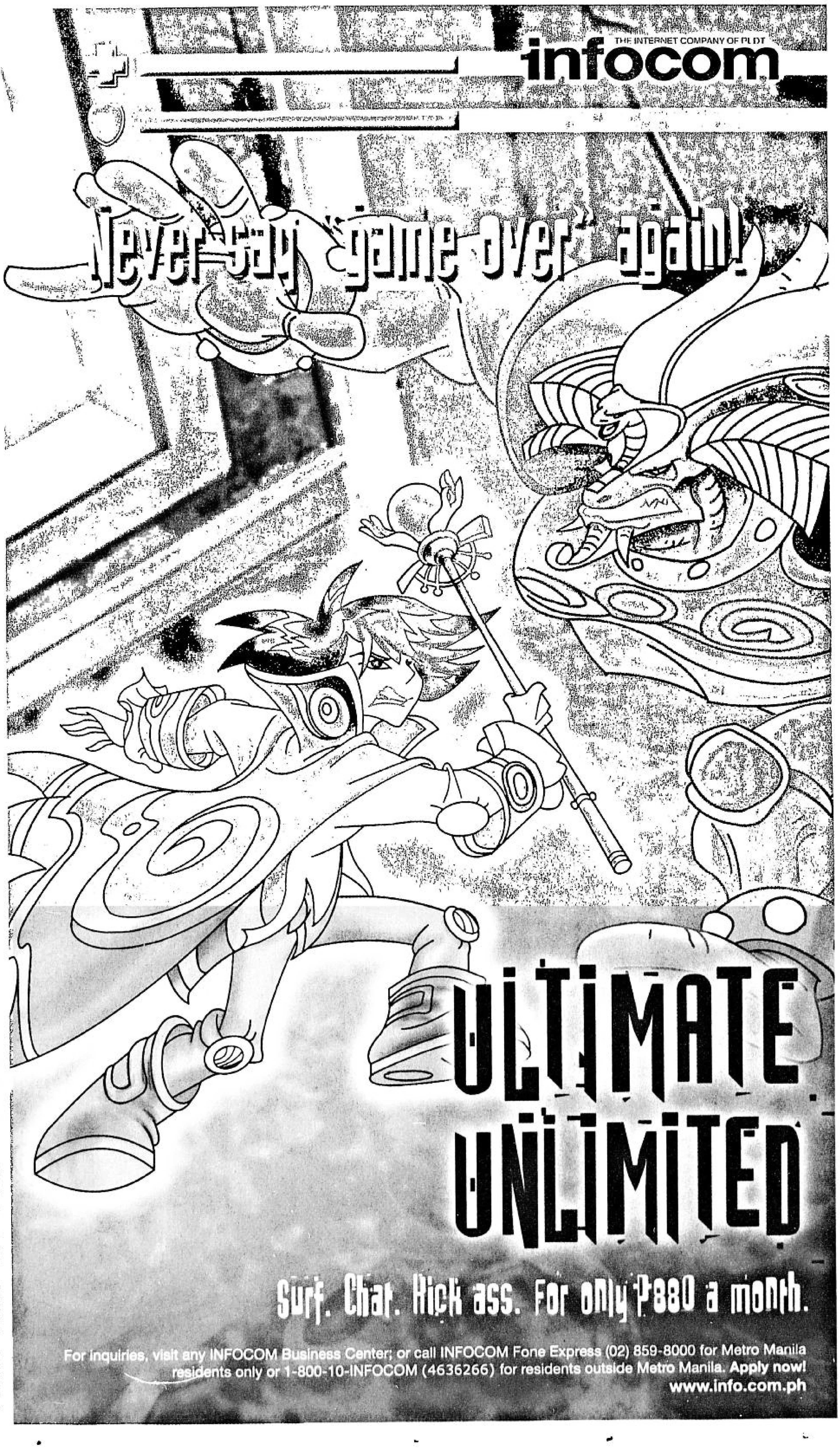
Among the best

The start of his US adventure was one of the most trying times in his life, he said. He had to literally knock on the door of production houses, hoping they would be willing to take him in even when he had no legal papers.

"Stargate Digital took a chance on me," he said. "I was excited to be working in a top Hollywood production house even if it was just on an intern's salary."

Today, Ocampo is a 3D lead artist at Stargate, which is sponsoring his green card. He does animation work for top US TV programs such as "CSI." He used to do animation and special effects for "E.R."

Winning the Vesy Award has certainly placed Ocampo among the best in his league, a position that many other Filipinos in visual arts and animation are still dreaming of but can, if they work as hard, eventually achieve, like Tony Ocampo just did.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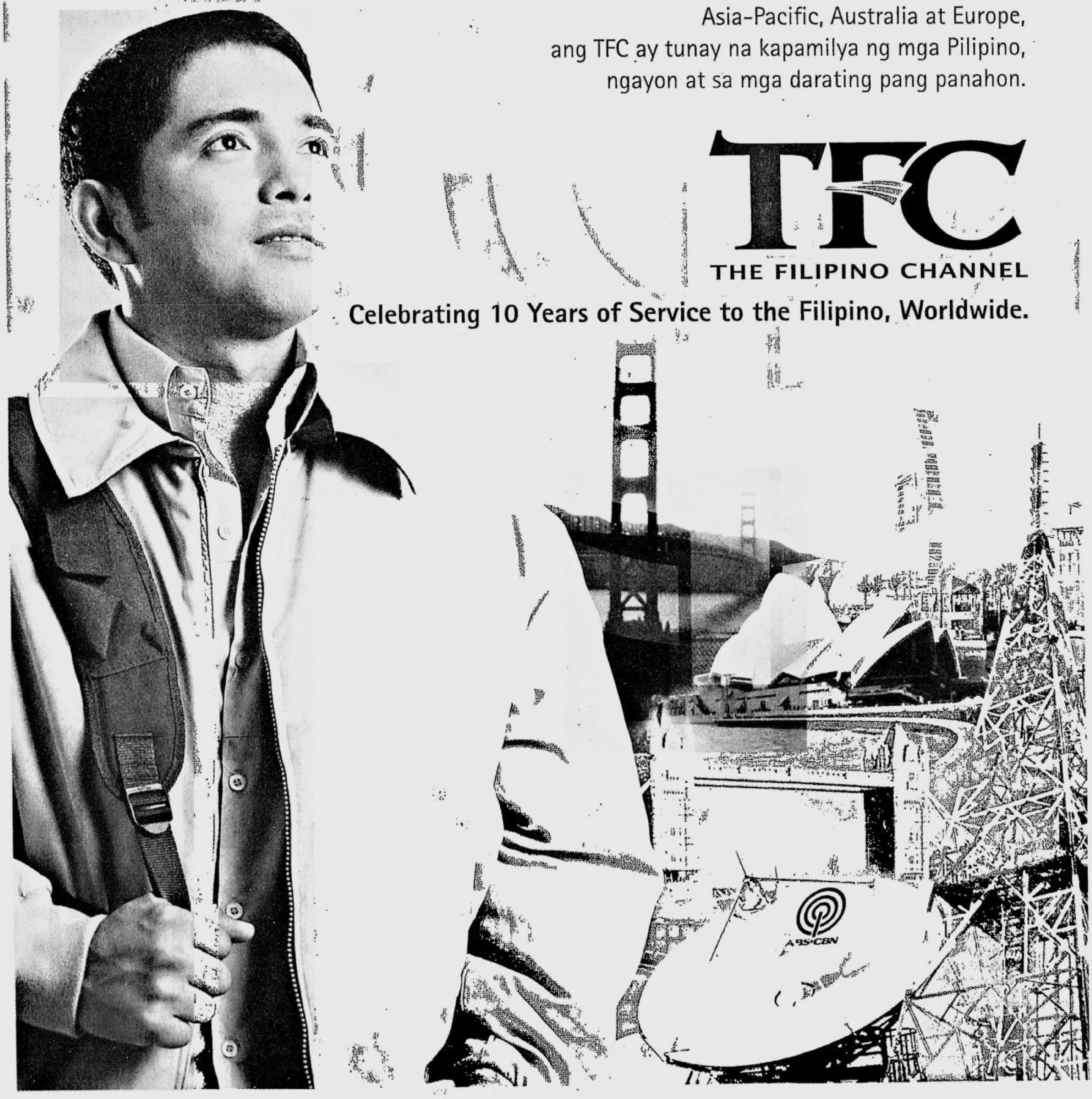

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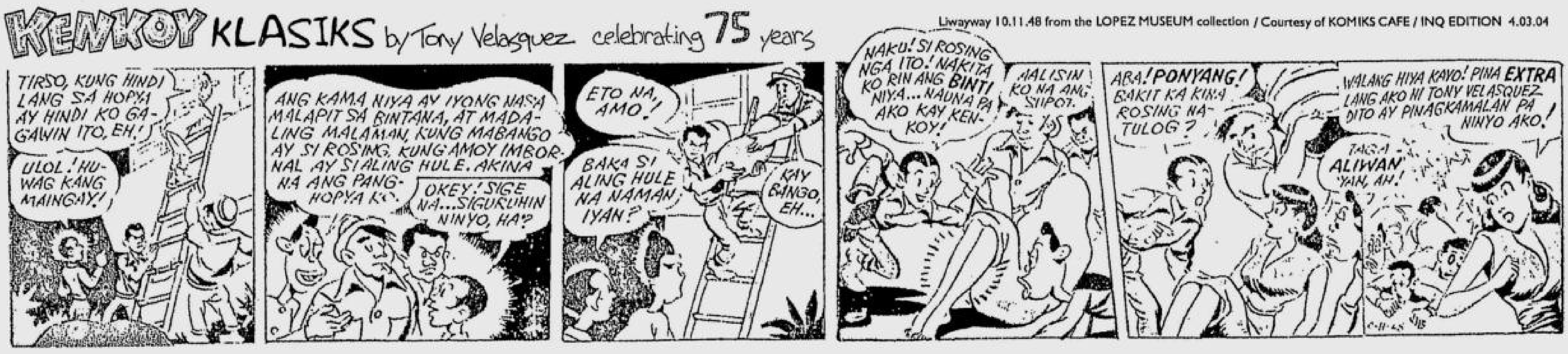
KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez celebrating 75 years
TIRSO, KUNG HINDI LANG SA HOPYA AY HINDI KO GAGAWIN ITO, EH!
ULOL! HUWAG KANG MAINGAY!
ANG KAMA NIYA AY IYONG NASA MALAPIT SA BINTANA, AT MADALING MALAMAN, KUNG MABANGO AY SI ROSING, KUNG AMOY IMBORNAL AY SI ALING HULE. AKINA NA ANG PANG-HOPYA KO.
OKEY! SIGE NA...SIGURUHIN NINYO, HA?
ETO NA, AMO!
BAKA SI ALING HULE NA NAMAN IYAN?
KAY BANGO, EH...
NAKU! SI ROSING NGA ITO! NAKITA KO RIN ANG BINTI NIYA... NAUNA PA AKO KAY KENKOY!
AALISIN KO NA ANG SUPOT.
ABA! PONYANG! BAKIT KA KINA ROSING NATULOG?
WALANG HIYA KAYO! PINA EXTRA LANG AKO NI TONY VELASQUEZ DITO AY PINAGKAMALAN PA NINYO AKO!
TAGA-ALIWAN 'YAN, AH!

Liwayway 10.11.48 from the LOPEZ MUSEUM collection / Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE / INQ EDITION 4.03.04

Is ABS-CBN getting paranoid?

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

ABS-CBN still isn't done doing damage control.

Last March 29, it fired off a letter addressed to INQUIRER editor-in-chief **Letty Magsanoc** saying it can "only surmise extreme malice" in the paper's "series of baseless, unfounded" reports on the Dolphy-ABS-CBN issue.

In effect, it was saying that reporter **Marinel Cruz** had got it wrong: Management talking to **Dolphy** at this time had nothing to do with politics but only with "normal business" activity.

Following that, on March 31, it fired off a letter addressed to me, charging the INQUIRER of "incessantly" coming out with supposedly false claims that Dolphy's "Home Along the Airport" had been axed, and accusing me of "biased reporting" and "political propaganda."

Both letters, signed by **Maloli Manalastas**, its vice president for government, corporate affairs and PR, suggest the very same thing that **Dong Puno**, its executive vice president for news and public affairs, has been suggesting in his own letter, printed in full in the Bulletin. And that is: That these reports are the work of "hired hacks, demolition experts, and irresponsible media."

All right, let's see who is manipulating the facts here.

Axed or not?

It is true that Dolphy's "Home Along" is still airing and that the King of Comedy is still taping regularly for the show.

But that is not because the show has not been axed, that is because Dolphy is honoring his contract, which is good up to August.

In fact, the comedian upped his taping days to two, from the original one, in the week he was to campaign for his friend FPJ in Cebu. And he could do the same in the weeks ahead, should he want to advance episodes for one reason or other.

But neither his continuous taping nor his increase in taping days changes one fact: Dolphy has been told to rest indefinitely, effectively canceling his show.

Therefore, even if Dolphy is still seen around the ABS studios, even if he had just taped an ABS station-ID commercial, and even if he should be caught by the ABS camera in the next months smiling with ABS chair and CEO **Gabby Lopez**, the fact remains: Dolphy and "Home Along" are gone after August.

The show is axed.

There is no misrepresentation here of a fact so bald.

Circumstances retold

Industry sources—which include two directors, one scriptwriter, two producers, and two talent managers—have told me that in March this year, Dolphy was invited to dinner by ABS-CBN management, led by no less than Gabby Lopez, and that in the dinner, the comedian was told they were "thinking of retiring" him.

The invitation to dinner had been extended to Dolphy by the show's executive producer, who said that management wanted to thank him for "Home Along" rating consistently well for close to a month by then. Thus, it was to Dolphy's surprise—as it was to the executive producer's—that after social talk revolving around Dolphy's election work for his friend FPJ, the talk led to the business of Dolphy taking an indefinite rest.

There was, no doubt, an effort to cushion the comedian's fall. In fact, we may assume, as Manalastas and Puno insist, that management recognized that Dolphy was an institution unto himself. The network did go through the trouble of assembling such a high-powered line up—apart from the chair and CEO, there were the immediate past and present presidents of ABS, and executive **Charo Santos**—to meet with the star. And they did offer to bring the star back at a future date with a bang.

But, if they thought that civility of form would suffice, they miscalculated badly. In truth, their allusions to **Frank Sinatra**'s Vegas career were met with a dig by Dolphy himself the day he shot his FPJ campaign ad for director **Richard Gomez**. The comedian noted to friends that Sinatra was in his 60s then, while he was 75 going on 76—an age he had before this referred to as "*lampas na sa numero ng bingo*"—and that if they mounted a comeback for him at 80, his voice could be stricken with Parkinson's or Alzheimer's by then!

Dolphy said this with no rancor in his voice, witnesses say, which is why everyone in the studio ended up, not cursing ABS, but laughing.

On that same occasion, FPJ and **Susan Roces** surprised Dolphy with a visit. So did others among Dolphy's celebrity friends. And Dolphy welcomed their presence and joined them for dinner.

If, as ABS says, there was nothing more to this than regular business, why would FPJ put a premium on a surprise visit? And why would he tell Dolphy's son that he needed his father in his sorties but that he'd understand if the man could not?

And what were Dolphy's friends doing, sitting around and keeping him company on a working Monday? All that togetherness for a simple campaign ad shoot? In addition, when these friends told him they'd planned a press conference in Mother Lily's hotel, Dolphy didn't ask what that was all about. What he said was, he had no intentions of talking to the press.

In other words, everyone—Dolphy, most of all—knew that something big had happened here.

Days later, a picture of that FPJ-Dolphy meeting landed in the INQUIRER's front page. Within hours, Gabby Lopez and Charo Santos were at Dolphy's Roxas Boulevard home. But this time, for their conversation proper, everyone, including Charo and **Eric Quizon**, were kept out. Only Dolphy and Gabby huddled in the room.

Since then, nothing has been heard. But it is telling that while Dolphy has apologized to the President for remarks he made in the FPJ Cebu rally, he has not made similar clarifications, much less disavowals, about his show being axed.

The ABS side

The ABS letter accuses me of "biased reporting" because I "did not even attempt to get the side of ABS-CBN or Mr. Lopez."

Truth is, I am more than properly informed. I am impressed by the glut of information. ABS is everywhere! Its organized, well-oiled PR machinery with the multimedia reach has been on overdrive, putting out fires, editorializing, snapping at anything that so much as murmurs that the Lopezes may not be immaculate. Even if, without doubt, the Maynilad deal with GMA is at par with the Disini, Cuenca, Benedicto, Danding and Tan deals with Marcos, where taxpayers and consumers are made to pay for crony busts.

As for Gabby Lopez, my reading was, and is, that he will leave Manalastas and Puno to clean up after him, which, as these ABS vice-presidents' letters show, is exactly what is happening.

No, the ABS side was clear to me. What was not, was the Dolphy side.

Which explains why I had to go to several sources to put the Dolphy story together, tapping into the sources separately, later matching accounts against each other, getting back to others for clarification, until I could put together what stands as the most logical and solid version, in the face of Dolphy's silence.

As for these sources being "unnamed," well, if ABS had not put a lid on its negotiations with Dolphy, if it had not worked in a clause in his contract saying he could not say anything inimical to the company, if it did not have everyone in ABS quaking at the mere thought of being quoted, and if there were no witchhunts periodically going on in there—then these sources would have agreed to be named.

"Political propaganda"

Finally, ABS accuses me of writing the Dolphy story as "political propaganda."

Political—what?

In an entertainment column? Who for? Who against? And why?

I have to conclude—and don't tell me you don't mean this, Ms Maloli—that I am being accused of hitting GMA and rooting for FPJ.

Let me spell it out, then, as much as it is possible to sum up a political stand in a paragraph: I am not voting for GMA, as she has given me proof I should be afraid of her. I am not as scared as my smart friends are of an FPJ presidency, but I am not voting for him either. Where I stand now, I am leaving the president and vice president slots on my ballot blank.

About now, I am thinking that it is ABS vice presidents who like to write a series of baseless, unfounded—and let me suggest, paranoid?—letters. And for nothing more edifying than doing damage control following the mess their bosses leave behind.

Summer film workshops at UP

SHOW TIME

FOLLOWING the success of its recent Directors' Lecture Series, which was organized with the Directors Guild of the Philippines, the UP Film Institute resumes for the 8th consecutive year its summer workshops on basic video production, basic photography, non-linear editing, and art and animation.

The first session of Basic Video Production will run from April 12 to 24, and the second session from May 3 to 15, 2004. It consists of lecture demonstrations, screenings and productions on both narrative and documentary exercises. A maximum of 20 participants will be accommodated per session.

The first session of the Basic Photography Workshop is from April 26 to May 1, and the second session from May 17 to 22. The workshop is a basic course on black and white photography and is limited to 10 participants per session.

The Non-Linear Editing Workshop is from April 19 to 30, and from May 10 to 21, and limited to only six participants.

The Art and Animation Workshop will be offered from May 24 to June 5, 2004. This will provide full instruction on combining art and video animation techniques. A maximum of 15 participants will be accepted.

Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Forms can be downloaded from UP the Film Institute website at http://www.upd.edu.ph/film_ctr/works.html. For more information, intrested parties may call Ms Laisa at 925-0286 or 926-3640, or e-mail upfilminstitute@hotmail.com.

Sorry Cindy . . .

ABS-CBN vice president for creative communications management Cindy Muñoz de Leon was erroneously identified as Cindy de la Cruz in the article "Dolphy, ABS-CBN 'icon,' stars in new station ID" that appeared in last Friday's Entertainment section.

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"MAGIC is a sign of hope," says part-time deejay Erik Mana.

M

By Marinel R. Cruz

ERIK Mana needed no sleight of hand to set aside his love for magic and instead took up audio engineering in a Toronto university. He was hoping he would be able to earn more money by making music.

While at the university, Mana worked as a deejay in various clubs in Toronto. His two worlds met when, in his first job out of college, he became a sound technician for a magic show.

"I think it was fate," Mana told INQUIRER Entertainment. "Magic is a sign of hope. Like a lot of people, I believe there is something magical and beyond-the-logical explanation to a lot of things."

As a kid, he enjoyed reading magic books and practicing tricks with his friends. He learned his first magic trick at age seven, about the same year he got his first deck of cards from a little magic shop in Disneyland.

It was the simplest of tricks. "Some kid in my neighborhood showed me two pennies, held in one hand," he recalled. "He closed his hands. He opened them again and the two pennies were now in the other hand.

"He taught me how to do that trick and I've been hooked on magic since," said the 30-year-old Filipino-Canadian with a little boy's amazement. "I liked fooling my friends with magic."

Mana "seriously" got into doing magic after he finished high school. He toured across Canada with a five-member group called Princess Karma and Company for almost three years. Couple Gary and Deanna Edmonds own the company.

As part of the group, Mana learned how to cut a woman in two, make rabbits disappear or turn them into doves. He has also done vanishing acts a la Harry Houdini and levitations a la David Copperfield.

But even when he was doing one magic show after another, Mana still felt unfulfilled. He broke away from the group when he met two magicians, Eric Sloane and Steve Jesse, who taught him different hand manipulations, or what he called "small stuff."

"I'm not really looking that far ahead into becoming a grand-scale illusionist," he said. "I actually felt that I was a fake because I didn't know much about the small stuff, those sleight of hand tricks. By learning them, I felt satisfied as a magician."

He learned hypnosis from hypnotists Jason Hurley and Ed Fernandez, whom he met in a comedy club.

"My magic and hypnosis sold all my shows," he said. "But soon, my shows got smaller and smaller."

Breaking barriers

In August 2000, Mana came to the Philippines to attend his grandparents' wedding anniversary. He first performed his magic trick in a bar in Makati and was amazed by the people's positive response. That was when he decided to pack his bags in Canada and try his luck in Manila.

"Apart from myself, I also want to promote my craft," he said. "I want to put magic in the spotlight again. Magic breaks all barriers, from language to race. I found the Filipino audience more appreciative than people back home. Not too many people here have seen what I can do."

Mana said he meets a lot of Filipino magicians who are too scared to go beyond performing at birthday and wedding parties. "They are afraid to step out of their boxes, go to other venues and meet new clienteles," he said.

"I want to promote magic so that more and more people would be a little bit more educated about it," he added.

He said it helped that Canadian magician David Blaine's show is aired in the Philippines on cable's AXN. "Most magicians here are stuck with street magic, which is where most magicians actually start," Mana said. "Blaine, however, took street magic to another level."

To be himself

In Manila, Mana's first major gig was MTV bar tours. Then, Jack Daniels hired him to perform at parties, on Channel E! and Minstral Bar in Makati. Cosmetics company Lancome also hired him for the Miracle perfume launch.

Mana is currently working with I-Vision Network for a television series, which has "Stranger" for a working title. On week days, he goes back to his other love, music, as he hosts an early morning radio show called "Morning Inspirations."

"While most magicians aspire to be a David Copperfield or David Blaine, I aspire to be Erik Mana, the magician," he said with a confidence that did not seem like a trick. "I want people to appreciate my magic for what it is. I want to stand alone with my magic and not be in Blaine's shadow anymore, because that's what it has been like for the past two and a half years."

Although he still loves performing for kids, Mana says most of his magic is now geared toward the adult audience. He said kids would rather see something very visual instead of acts that involves the mind.

Stage fright, dead doves

After having performed for almost 13 years, he admits he still gets stage fright. "There's always that anxiety during the first 10 seconds on stage. But it would disappear. I've learned to handle it."

He recalled one of his performances of a dove act, where he was to make doves appear out of nowhere and transform them into rabbits. Magicians usually put a dove into a cage, turn the cage around so the audience would just see the back of it, flip the lid, then pull a rabbit from the other half of the cage. "One dove was not secured properly and the trapdoor went down on its head and cracked it," Mana said of his act. "We didn't see it happen so when we turned the

M/C6

Meeting up with some good Samaritans

The Philippines may not be like Samaria with its sandy hills and desert climes, but summer has given our country's travelers our version of good Samaritans. These are the kind of companies that won't leave you lying with a dead car on the road to the beach or sweating out a traffic line up as a car stalls up front. These are people who care if you're holding nature's call until the next available tree or panting from hunger and thirst. And they are gathered in one of the most ubiquitous of places---the Caltex station.

Caltex (Philippines), Inc. has launched the Caltex Summer Samaritan program. With partners like Metrowatch/MMDA, Red Cross, 24-HEROES, SMART Communications, MOTOLITE batteries and top car manufacturers Isuzu, Nissan and Toyota, Caltex stations will be ready to assist travelers heading out to beaches, ancestral homes and other out-of-town getaways.

Before hitting the road, travelers can bring their cars to selected Metro Manila Caltex stations with Xpress Lubes for a quick 22-point maintenance check-up. Let station mechanics check the oil, fan belt, tire pressure and other details for real smooth driving and riding.

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- Pozzorubio, Pangasinan
- Rosario, La Union
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- Chanum cor Otek St., Burnham Park, Baguio
- Agoo, La Union
- San Fernando, La Union
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- Olongapo-Gapan Road, San Fernando, Pampanga
- Olongapo-Gapan Road, Guagua, Pampanga
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- Maharlika Hi-way, Cabanatuan
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GMA
- Sumulong Hi-way, Antipolo
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- National Hi-way, Balayan, Batangas
- National Hi-way, Nasugbu, Batangas
- Lucena City
- Techno Park, Sta Rosa, Laguna
- Imus, Cavite
- Emilio Aguinaldo Hi-way, Dasmariñas, Cavite
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The final hours of Jesus in the streets of Manila

SIGNEY: First time Jesus

LENT may be alien to his culture, but acting is in Signey's blood.

By Remy M. Umerez
Contributor

IF THE German mountain village of Oberamergau has its famous Passion play every 10 years, Manila has its annual version. It may not be as rich, grand or meticulous as its counterpart in Germany, but the Manila version is presented with as much passion and dedication.

The Tanghalang Sta. Ana mounts the Passion play, or *cenaculo*, from Holy Monday to Black Saturday in six venues in the sixth district of Manila. Anybody and everybody can watch the *cenaculo* absolutely free.

Founded by comedian and city Councilor Lou Veloso, the play, called "Martir sa Golgota," has become a big attraction over the years, and is widely anticipated as the "Panunuluyan" during Christmas (a nine-day activity where all invited go to the poorest of the poor to reenact Joseph and Mary's search for an inn) and the *Santacruzan* of May which recreates the search for the Cross.

Warehouse of art

Veloso was able to acquire a small portion of Sta. Ana's Plaza Hugo and transform it into the Sta. Ana Arts Center.

"It was a dilapidated warehouse that we all helped clean up," recalls Veloso. "My dream of a legitimate theater was fulfilled.

Veloso spent his own money for the earlier stagings of "Martir sa Golgota" until corporate sponsors started to support the project. Pagcor, Caltex Philippines and Unilever have become regular sponsors.

The Passion play of Manila was written by a priest, and most of the lines were lifted from the Bible. Each year, it focuses on a certain theme depending on a current situation or an issue.

"We try to inject something relevant or timely," says Veloso. "If we only tackle the life of Christ, His death might go to waste. In the past, we integrated themes on family, drugs, abortion, peace and order. Now it's election time."

Role of a lifetime

Movie actors Ariel Rivera, Christopher de Leon, Rez Cortez, Daniel Fernando, Rita Avila, Pinky Marquez and Carmi Martin have at one time or another played major roles in the Lenten offering. Its first Jesus was former action actor Raymond Keanu.

This year, long-haired newcomer Richard Signey is Jesus.

"But it's one thing to look the part and quite another to portray it effectively," says Signey. "Jesus has been around for more than 2,000 years, and it is difficult to reinvent or reinterpret him without meeting a lot of resistance from people."

He feels that the fact that he is not a religious person adds more pressure to his performance of the role of a lifetime.

In His sandals

"I'm trying to put myself in Christ's sandals, so to speak, to try to get a better feel of how it is to be such a complex character with complex emotions, especially at this particular moment in his life," says Signey, who grew up in Baguio City and is part Ifugao. *Cenaculo* was never a part of his culture.

"I prefer to reflect on what the spirit of Lent means to how we relate to the world around us, rather than to celebrate it in the traditional way just because it is always done that way," the young man says.

Signey's theater experience includes two musicals: "Hubhub," an Ifugao epic romance, which he says brought him closer to his roots, and "Grethology," where he played Ares, the god of war. He also had a small part in "Butterflies are Free."

Tradition, politics

He came to Manila a year ago after quitting a consultancy job in a multinational firm in New York. He teaches English in Makati and is a segment host on "Chikiting Patrol."

The role of Mary Magdalene is played by former beauty queen Alma Concepcion. "Martir sa Golgota" is her first Lenten play, her first in a community-based theater, and her first musical.

Concepcion confesses that after she read "The Purpose Driven Life" by Rick Warren, "I feel that all I do now is for His glory, and playing Magdalene gives me an opportunity to expand His teachings."

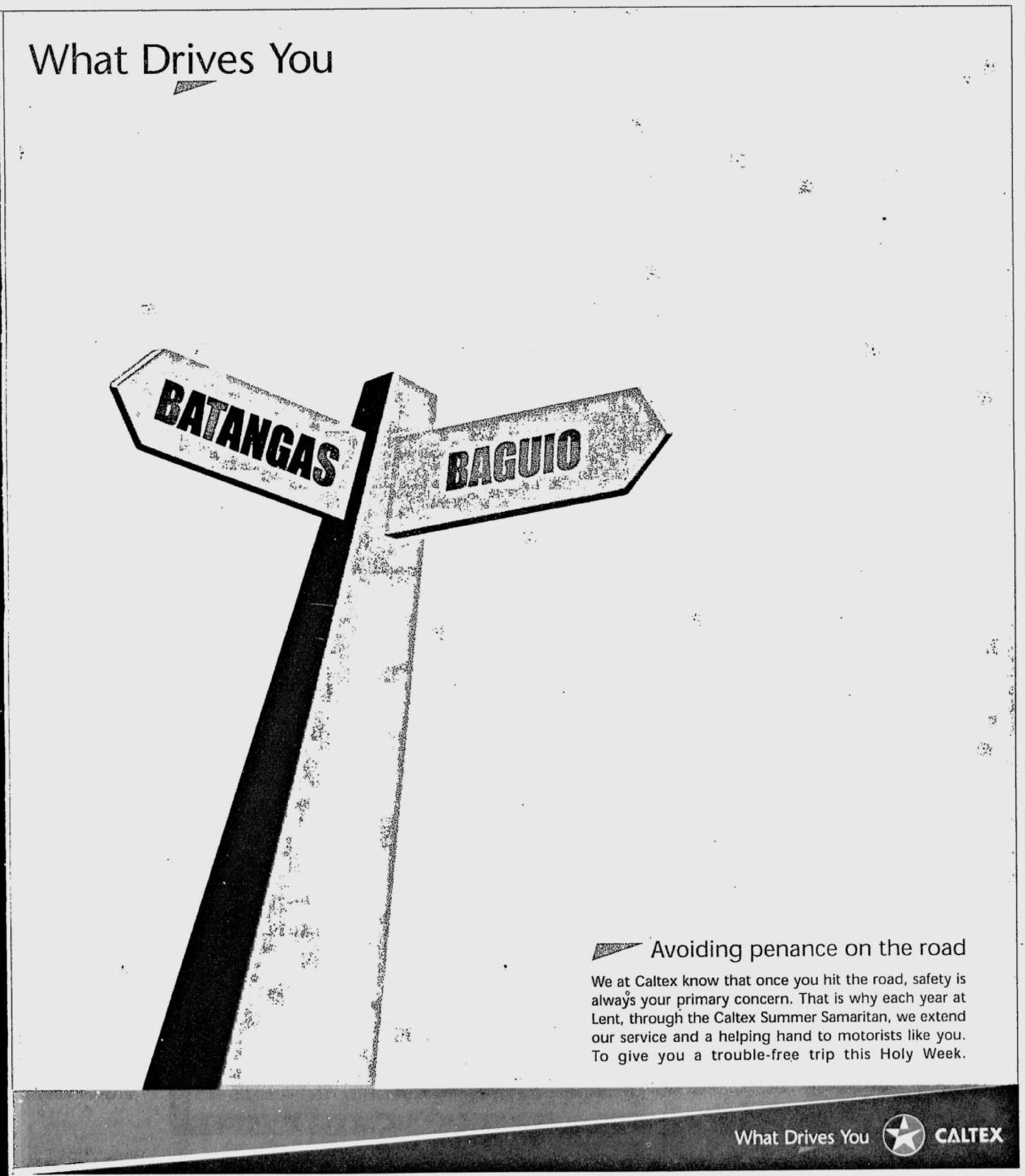
The actress' grandfather, Jose Carvajal, is known as the father of the *zarzuela*. Concepcion herself has appeared in "Ibong Adarna" for Bulwagang Gantimpala, "Rashomon" for Dramatis Personae and "Without Seeing the Dawn" for Dulaang Balintataw.

This year's presentation of "Martir sa Golgota" is unorthodox as it combines religious rhetoric with political innuendo, an interesting interplay of tradition and politics.

"Martir sa Golgota" starts tomorrow, Holy Monday, at the St. Jude Parish in San Miguel. It continues on April 6, Holy Tuesday, at Munting Isla V. Mapa Extension (near Don Bosco), Sta. Mesa; April 7, Holy Wednesday, at Plaza Hugo in Sta. Ana; April 8, Maundy Thursday, at the Mabolo basketball court on Obesis Street in Pandacan; April 9, Good Friday, on J. Posadas Street in Punta, Sta. Ana.

Performances start at 7:30 p.m. For inquiries, call 564-4365 or 721-0801.

CONCEPCION, a stranger to passion plays, is Magdalene to Signey's Christ.



Avoiding penance on the road

We at Caltex know that once you hit the road, safety is always your primary concern. That is why each year at Lent, through the Caltex Summer Samaritan, we extend our service and a helping hand to motorists like you. To give you a trouble-free trip this Holy Week.

Isuzu, Nissan and Toyota ready with service facilities and mechanics at selected Caltex stations. These tents can take on minor vehicular check-up and car repairs if needed.

Metro Watch Radio Action Group volunteers stationed in Caltex will be monitoring major highways leading to popular vacation destinations. Roving groups will watch out for any vehicle mishaps or problems and call stations with repair facilities for assistance. A tow truck will be on call in certain areas. For Holy Week, a vehicle towing service will also be provided.

Travelers themselves will have to be in peak condition when they hit the road. But for medical emergencies, some Caltex stations will have Red Cross volunteers standing by for first aid and medical assistance.

SMART Communications will also keep travelers connected during their trip by providing operational cellphones in certain stations for emergency calls.

Hopefully, this year's batch of summer travelers will all be on the safe and sound side. But Caltex has ensured that travelers don't just drive by, but have reasons like relief, convenience and freebies to stop and stretch their legs. Clean restrooms, convenient grocery items and snacks like the bestselling Star Mart siomai await those who would stop and see more than just a gas station.

ADVT.

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8 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
9 OTSO-OTSO
10 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
11 HIDALGO
12 HOSTILE INTENT

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6 HIDALGO
7 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
8 SCOOBY DOO 2
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11 GOTHIKA
12 THE GRUDGE 2

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4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 SCOOBY DOO 2
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7 THE CURSE
8 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
9 OTSO-OTSO
10 THE GRUDGE 2
11 DONT' TEMPT ME
12 50 FIRST DATES

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1 OTSO-OTSO
2 SCOOBY DOO 2
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5 DUDA/DOUBT
6 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
7 50 FIRST DATES
8 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

SM CITY STA. MESA
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1 OTSO-OTSO
2 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 HIDALGO
5 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
6 THE GRUDGE 2
7 SCOOBY DOO 2
8 50 FIRST DATES
9 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
10 BUTTERFLY EFFECT

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 SCOOBY DOO 2

North

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2 WATER DEMON
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 SCOOBY DOO 2

SM CITY PAMPANGA
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2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
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4 SCOOBY DOO 2
5 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
6 OTSO-OTSO

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3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
4 SCOOBY DOO 2

South

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8066888

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2 SCOOBY DOO 2
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4 50 FIRST DATES
5 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
6 KARIBAL
7 OTSO-OTSO
8 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
9 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
10 HIDALGO

SM CITY BICUTAN
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3 SCOOBY DOO 2
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

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3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 HOUSE OF THE DEAD

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2 SCOOBY DOO 2
3 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 OTSO-OTSO
5 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
6 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
7 50 FIRST DATES
8 KARIBAL

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4 OTSO-OTSO

Visayas & Mindanao

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4 TOTALLY BLONDE
5 HIDALGO
6 KARIBAL
7 OTSO-OTSO
8 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

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2 RESERVED
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5 GOTHIKA
6 LOVE ACTUALLY
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2 RING: THE SPIRAL
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 LOVE ACTUALLY
5 TORQUE
6 SCOOBY DOO 2

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1 HIDALGO
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
3 OTSO OTSO
4 TORQUE

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CINEMA

1
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11:50 FS/5:40 MF/8:20/ 10:30 LFS/ 11:00 LMF/ 1:10 END

2
THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
11:10 FS/11:40 MF/ 2:20/5:00/ 7:40/ 9:50 LFS/ 10:20 LMF/12:30 END

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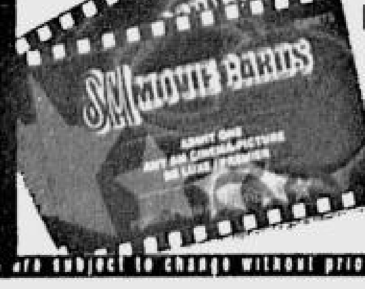

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2 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	2 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	2 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 12.25 3.10 5.55 8.40	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 1.25 4.10 6.55 9.40	2 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 THE MISSING	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 11.50 2.40 5.25 8.10 10.55	Onstage REPERTORY'S DRACULA April 3 & 4	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 12.20 3.05 5.50 8.35 11.20	3 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST	4 DON'T TEMPT ME		4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 12.50 3.35 6.20 9.05 11.50	4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
	5 SCOOBY DOO		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 2.35 5.20 8.05 10.50	5 SCOOBY-DOO 2
	6 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST			
	7 50 FIRST DATES			

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4 SCOOBY DOO-2
5 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
6 50 FIRST DATE
7 HAUSE OF THE DEAD
8 OTSO OTSO
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3
4

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5 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
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8 SORUM
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3 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
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3 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
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3 KARIBAL
4 HOUSE OF THE DEAD
5 RESERVE

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1 PASSION OF CHRIST
2 OTSO OTSO

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6 HIGHWAY MEN
7 OTSO OTSO

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2 PASSION OF CHRIST
3 50 FIRST DATE
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECTS

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2 PASSION OF CHRIST
3 SCOOBY DOO-2
4 PASSION OF CHRIST

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4 TORQUE

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3 PASSION OF CHRIST
4 PASSION OF CHRIST

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2 PASSION OF CHRIST
3 PASSION OF CHRIST
4 HIDALGO

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4 DEATH CURSE

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2 KASIPING
3 PASSION OF CHRIST
4 GRUDGE-2
5 THE CURSE

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2 KASIPING

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2 GHOST HOUSE
3 KASIPING

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4 OTSO OTSO

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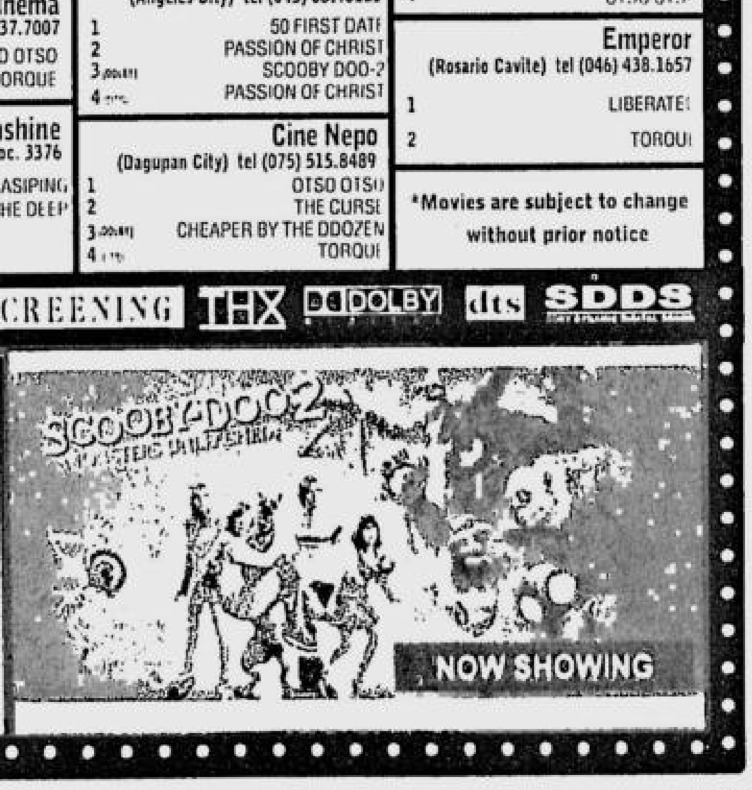

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From page C4

cage around, there was the rabbit. But then there was also the dove's head.

"I quickly stuffed the head inside but some of the parents in the audience saw it and complained after the show."

In another trick, he dislocated an arm while trying to get out of a strait jacket. "I was submerged in water while tied to a strait jacket," he recalled. "I kept wriggling my body to get out. I didn't know then that there was an easier way to get out of it."

Main line

For Mana, being a magician is a "very expensive profession." "There's never an end to your learning process," he pointed out, "so you're constantly buying a lot of books, videos and props."

He gets frustrated with his work, too.

Music and magic meet again when, "in several of my magic shows, people would come up to me and say they recognize me as Erik Mana of 'Morning Inspirations,'" his radio show which features an inspirational story or topic each day.

Still, being DJ "is just a sideline," he said. "Magic is my mainline. There's money in being a magician. It's amazing what parents would pay just so their kids could watch a magician."

Happy . . .

From page C8

We wanted it shown in Greenbelt, because they had a digital projector. But we couldn't wait. It was taking too long. We pitched it to a commercial venue, and then got a projector.

"We asked ourselves: 'Your actors are unknowns and you have a gay and lesbian subject. How will they approve it?' When we talked to SM, we explained, 'This is a movie with a gay and lesbian theme. You will sell.'"

Pablo revealed that "Duda" was nearly slapped with an X-rating when it was submitted to the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) for review. He was able to convince the reviewing committee to grant it an R-18 rating instead. "Duda" was shown in its entirety in SM theaters in March.

Producer Dorona, a correspondent for the Arab Times, said it was tough to keep realistic parameters during the shoot.

"Our money was running out," Dorona added. "By the third week into pre-production, everybody was backing out. But some good friends became sponsors. *Naawa sa* production."

In one of the last shooting days in Olongapo City, they ran out of money for a desired location. They were able to find a free place through the kindness of strangers who believed in their production.

Both Pablo and Dorona liken it now to "a great adventure." "Imagine Mr. Dorona in Olongapo," said the director, smiling. "One of the demands for him was to convince 10 guys to strip naked without money involved. He was able to deliver that."

THE UNINVITED

Boxoffice Champion in Asia... the scariest of them all.

Jeon Ji-hyun of "My Sassy Girl" stars in the horror movie "THE UNINVITED."

A spectacular US$ 30m boxoffice take in just 14 days. The biggest Korean made blockbuster movie this year had audiences screaming in their seats from beginning to end. The UNINVITED is a first class scare fest you should not watch if you are afraid of the dark because you are going to stay awake all night, while glancing nervously around your bedroom and fretting over every creak on the stairs, or windblown rattle of the windows.

THE UNINVITED joins the lineage of quality made Korean horror movies following the critically acclaimed films such as Sorum (2001), The Phone and Tale of Two Sisters (2002) and Wishing Stairs (2003).

"The popularity of these ghost movies have given stiff competition to Hollywood blockbusters in Asia. These films are also gaining a huge following in the west too", notes film critic Andrew Grey of Newsweek.

"So popular are these Asian made horror movies that Hollywood is doing the remakes. The first to get a remake was The Ring, followed by The Eye and The Grudge. New Line Cinema are in talks right now with the korean producers of The Uninvited for a remake starring Orlando Bloom".

High levels of creativity combined with good production values have catapulted this movie onto the international stage.

This new Korean ghost story THE UNINVITED features the long-awaited return of superstar Jeon Ji-hyun of "My Sassy Girl".

ADVT.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	[illegible]

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

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B	CLOSED
C	

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STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
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CINEMA-2	KARIBAL
CINEMA-3	MAGNIFICO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HAUNTED OFFICE
CINEMA-6	GRUDGE 2
CINEMA-7	TORQUE
CINEMA-8	HIGHWAYMEN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PASSION OR THE CHRIST
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
CINEMA-12	SCOOBY DOO 2
CINEMA-14	HOUSE OF THE DEAD
CINEMA-15	50 FIRST DATES

LORES

CINEMA 2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	THE CURSE
CINEMA-1	OTSO OTSO
CINEMA-2	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
CINEMA 4	[illegible]

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1 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**
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PG-13

2 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:15
PG-13

3 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**
10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 11:00
PG-13

4 **SCOOBY-DOO 2**
11:50, 1:55, 4:00
6:05, 8:10, 10:15
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P13

CINEMA 2 **PASSION OF THE CHRIST**
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P13

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THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST PG13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST PG13 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST PG13 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30

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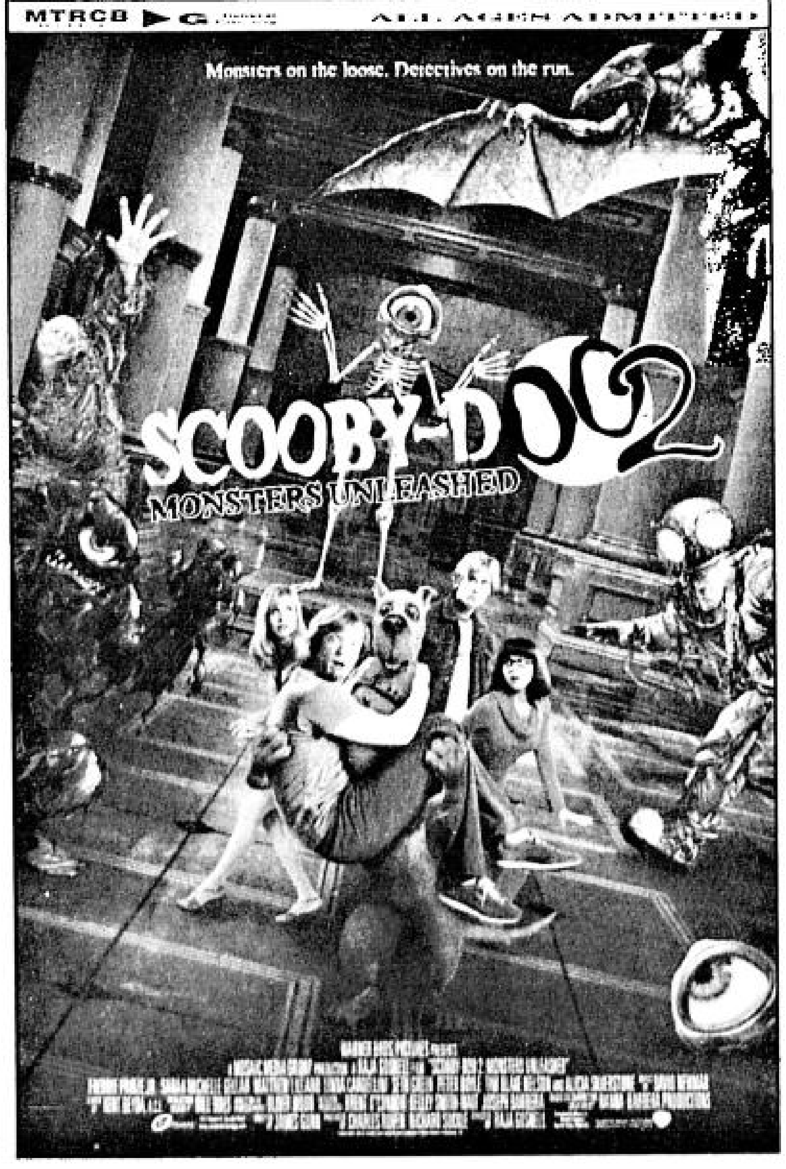

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3 **SCOOBY DOO 2** 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40

4 **THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT** 11.55, 2:05, 4:15, 6:25, 8.35, 10 35

5 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 10.50, 1:30 4.10, 6 50, 9 30

6 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 12:30, 3.20, 6:10, 9:00

7 **DON'T TEMPT ME** 12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30

8 **LOVE ACTUALLY** 12 30, [illegible], 8.10 10 30

9 **HOUSE OF THE DEAD** 10.50, 1 00, 3 10, 5.20, 7.30

10 **50 FIRST DATES** 11:50, 2 00, 4 10, 6:20, 10:30

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2 **SCOOBY DOO 2** 10:15 12 10, 2 05 4 00, 5 55, 7 50, 9 50

3 **DON'T TEMPT ME** 11:25, 1.35, 3:45, 5 55, 8.00, 10:00

4 **HOUSE OF THE DEAD** 11 05, 1.10, 3.15, 5.20, 7.45, 9.40

5 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 10 30 1:10 3:50, 6 30, 9 20,

6 **50 FIRST DATES** 10.50, 1.00, 3 10, 5.20, 7.30, 9.50

7 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 10:30, 1:10, 3.50, 6:30, 9:20

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2 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 10:15, 1:20, 4:25, 7:30, 10:30

3 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 10 15 1 20 4 25 7 30 10:30

4 **50 FIRST DATES** 10 50, 12:50, 2.50, 4.50, 6:50, 9:00

5 **SCOOBY DOO 2** 10.50, 12.50, 2 50, 4.50, 6.50, 9 00

6 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 10 15, 1 50 4 55, 8 00

7 **THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST** 10.15, 1 50 4 55, 8 00

8 **OTSO-OTSO** 11 00, 1 00, 3 00, 5 00, 7 00, 9:00

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3 **HOUSE OF THE DEAD** 12 00, 2 00, 4 00, 6 00, 8 00

4 **THE GRUDGE 2** 12:00, 2.00, 4 00, 6 00 8 00

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6 **SCOOBY DOO 2** 11 25, 1:15, 3 05, 4.55, 6 45, 8:35

7 **50 FIRST DATES** 11:25, 1.15, 3.05, 4:55, 6:45, 8:35

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2 OTSO-OTSO
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4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

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2 OTSO-OTSO
3 SCOOBY DOO 2
4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

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2 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 OTSO-OTSO
5 50 FIRST DATES

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5 SCOOBY DOO 2
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ENTERTAINMENT

Happy ending for first commercial digital movie on gay life

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

THE LOW-BUDGET movie "Duda," about gay life, love, and lust, was a hot ticket seller during six weeklong runs in SM mall theaters in Metro Manila.

But its journey to success included treading a road filled with real difficulties, according to writer-director Cris Pablo and producer Ray Dorona.

Pablo, who directs GMA-7's "I-Witness" and "Emergency," had been toying with the idea of filming his story for quite some time. "Initially, what we wanted was to make a movie and show it to a couple of friends," he said. "The dream grew and we told ourselves, 'Why not have it shown in commercial cinemas?'"

The UP Cineastes Studio, a group that he is an alumnus of, is composed of media professionals and students who had been aiming to create a digital video movie for years. It was only realized last year, with Pablo's "Duda."

"We went through a lot of challenges, but we were able to finish it," the director said. "It's a small movie. Only two professionals on the production side worked: The cameraman, and I, the director. It's my first digital movie."

SM Cinema management wasn't open to screening such movies before but was pleasantly surprised that audiences picked up "Duda," said Pablo. "I was very passionate about the project.

HAPPY/ C6

DUDA DUO [illegible]

Unexpected bonus

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"DON'T Tempt Me" has an interesting premise: an angel (**Victoria Abril**) and a devil (**Penelope Cruz**) are ordered to fight for the soul of a veteran boxer (**Damian Bichir**).

The contest is made even more exciting by the fact that hell is booming, while heaven is in decline. So, the angel has to try harder to succeed, or else the good forces may have to give up their age-old fight against evil!

Of course, this is a speculative situation, but the characters in this movie play it for real, so the competition really heats up.

The viewer may ask: Why is this boxer's decision so crucial to the ethical feature of the universe?

The movie answers that question in an intriguingly philosophical way: since heaven is on the losing end, if one more soul ends up in hell, the eternal fight between good and evil shall have been rendered moot and academic—so there would no longer be any need for angels and devils!

Thus, the devil in the movie's story ends up joining forces with the angel to make sure that the boxer opts for a good death! This is an unexpected twist that makes the film thematically surprising and thought-provoking.

However, the production suffers from a low and slow middle third, and the viewer's attention starts to wander. It's a good thing that the two leads' performances and the portrayal of **Gael Garcia Bernal** as Lucifer are textured and inventive, and thus help sustain our interest even when the plot development is unfocused or slow.

Penelope Cruz is better known in these parts than Victoria Abril, but it's the more mature Abril who turns in the best performance in the film. Aside from being a fine actress, Abril also sings and dances up a storm, and captivates viewers with her sophistication and versatility.

Adding to the production's unusual appeal is the fact that it's a Spanish production with some French dialogue and English subtitles. This may confound viewers used to hearing English dialogue, but it's an unexpected bonus for moviegoers more attuned to European languages and filmmaking.

Thus, Penelope Cruz may be the movie's main selling factor to the average viewer, but the production turns out to have much more going for it than her Tom Cruise-related cachet. "Don't Tempt Me" has it low moments, but it's a good viewing choice for more venturesome and open-minded viewers.

Sneak previews

ADVANCE screenings of "Peter Pan" will be held in selected theaters from April 5 to 7.

Writer-director **P.J. Hogan** ("My Best friend's Wedding") has brought the wonder, danger and excitement of **J.M. Barrie**'s enchanting story to the screen in the first live-action feature version of "Peter Pan" since the silent film era.

'Lovely Day'

LOVE Añover hosts GMA 7's new Saturday-morning show (10 a.m.), "Lovely Day." The program is billed as the channel's "first and only good news magazine show."

Inspiring segments include "My Hero" (on achievers and courageous people), "Kaya Mo Rin 'To" (success stories), "It Must Be Love" (love stories), "Ganda Mo/Guwapo Mo" (makeovers), "Health is Wealth" and the travel segment "Ganda ng Pinas" with **Christian Esteban** as segment host.

'Rosemarie Clooney Songbook'

BETTE Midler's new album, "The Rosemarie Clooney Songbook," reunites her with her original piano accompanist and musical director, **Barry Manilow**. He produced her breakthrough albums "Divine Ms M" and Bette Midler."

Midler has been a fan of Rosemarie Clooney's songs for as long as she can remember. She praises Clooney for possessing "one of the great American voices of the last century—full of warmth, sincerity and truth.

Her intention was impeccable, she never sang a false note."

Clooney is the voice behind such songs as "Tenderly," "Mambo Italiano," and "On a Slow Boat to China."

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All For You	DIVA7
Just A Little While	DIVA10
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Thinkin' Bout My Ex	DIVA12

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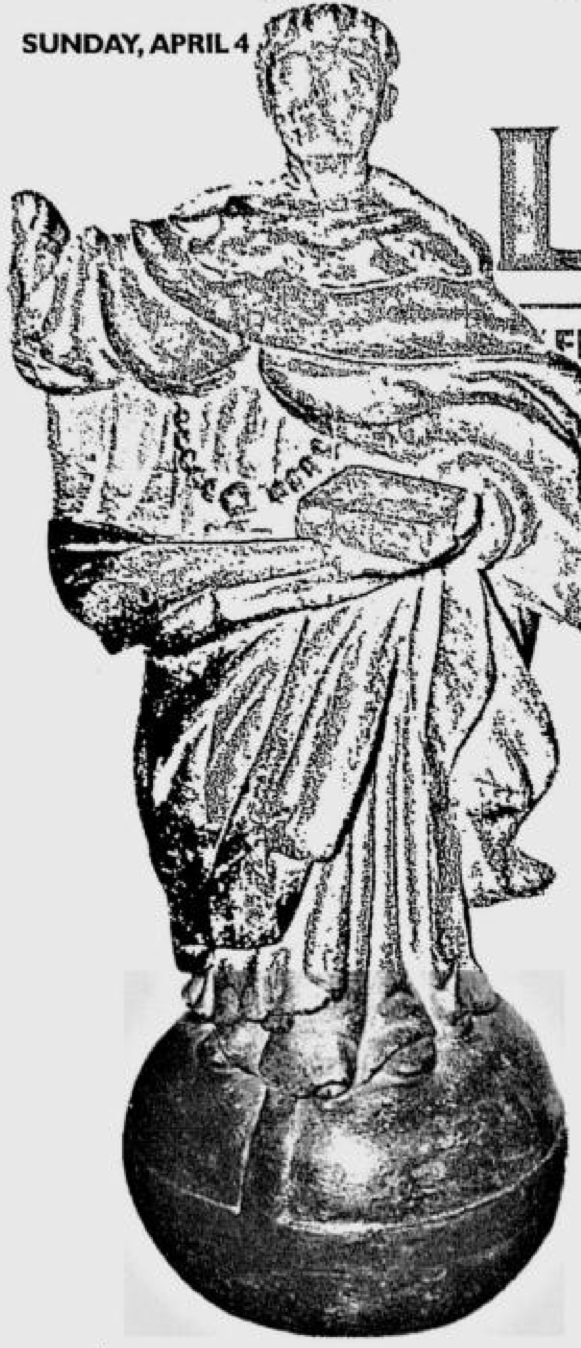
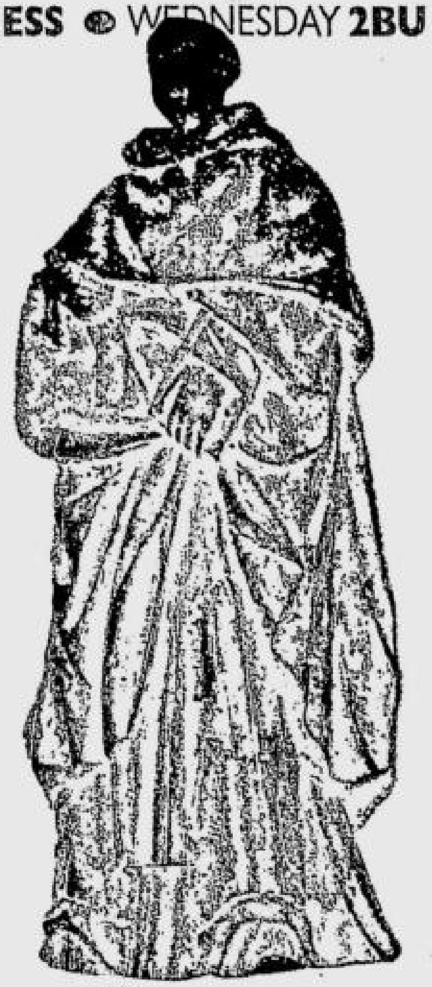
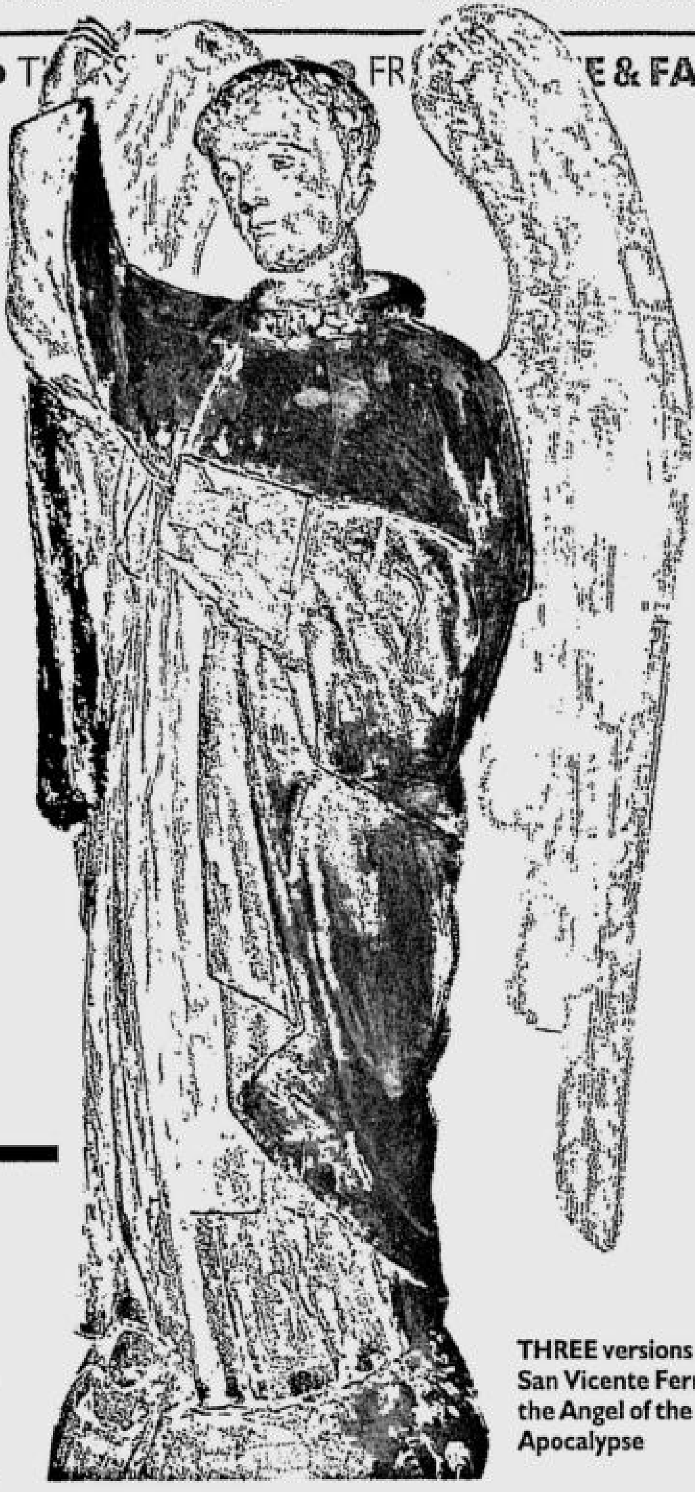






THREE versions of San Vicente Ferrer, the Angel of the Apocalypse

Winged saint—protector of Filipino homes in the past

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

An antique collection shows early Pinoy Catholics put their trust in saints who would now seem obscure

IT seems even religion is not impervious to the Filipinos' penchant for following what is *uso*.

Almost four decades of collecting religious antiquities and this prominent lawyer, a resident of Quezon City who wants to remain anonymous for obvious reasons, has yet to add an image of the child Jesus to his treasure trove.

But then his pieces are no younger than 50 years, and the Niño phenomenon—although sweeping—seems to be of more recent vintage.

Of course, given the current popularity of the Niño (not only is He seen everywhere, on dashboards, offices, wet markets and even beside Buddha, but the *ati-atihan*, the traditional celebration of the Child Jesus' feast day in Kalibo, Aklan, is likewise staged all over), His images will doubtless be among the collectibles soon.

The antique collection, which the lawyer says he started with the first money he earned while still a college student (he bought a pair of angels in his native Bulacan for P50), seems to suggest two things: One, Pinoys have always been *maka-ina*, hence, renderings of the Virgin Mother (or Mama Mary as many Filipinos prefer to call her) in her various appearances; and, two, even in religion, the Pinoy's "favorites" tend to change.

Favorite doll?

While the Niño may be many people's current object of devotion, if not favorite doll—with costumes ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous—farmer, soldier/policeman, rock star, little prince, Constantino in a *santakrusan*, etc., that, if put together, will put to shame the wardrobe of Barbie's ex, Ken—early Filipino Catholics put their trust on saints hardly heard of today.

Take San Vicente Ferrer. The collector has found out that the Dominican priest was a constant presence in Filipino homes in the early days, and was considered a bringer of good fortune and protector from illness.

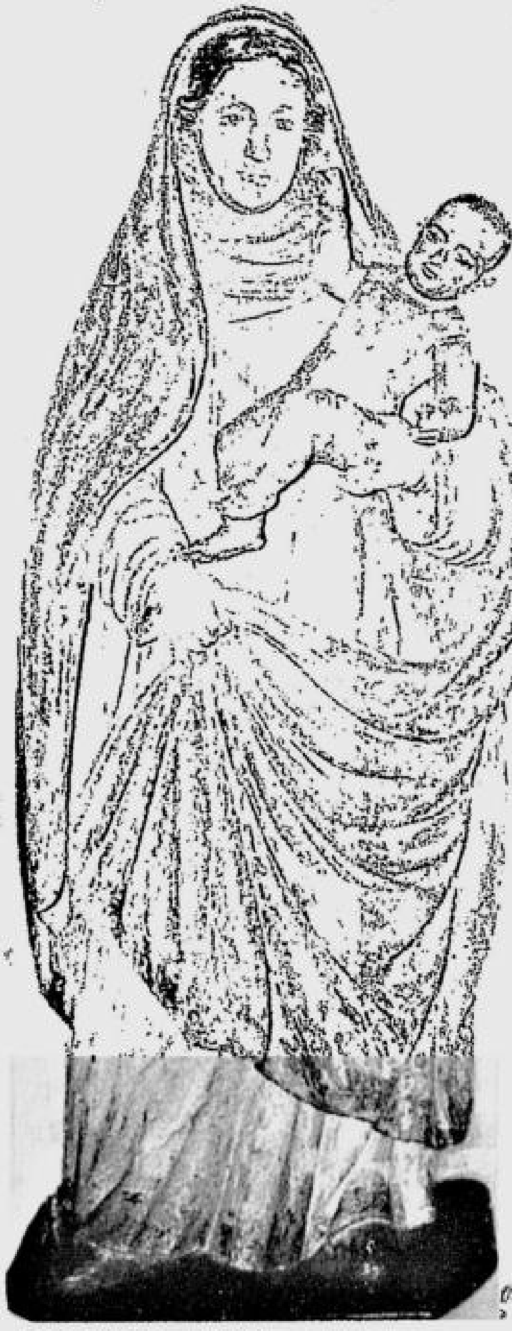
So popular was San Vicente in earlier times that the lawyer has at least five statuettes of the saint.

The saint, also known as the Angel of the Apocalypse, is usually shown with wings. He was reportedly the patron of builders not so much for erecting physical structures but for helping rebuild and strengthen faith.

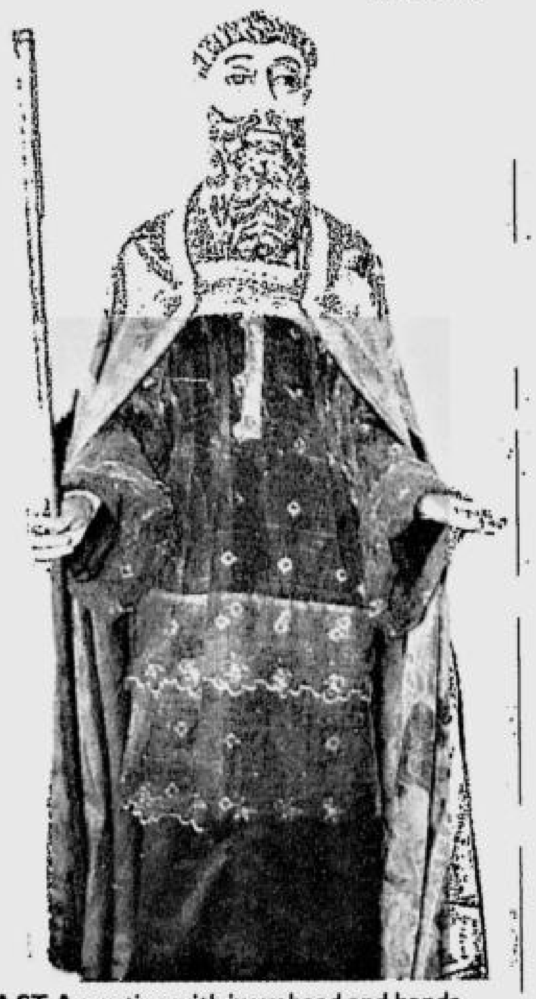
Missing Niño

The Holy Family—Joseph, Mary and Jesus—seemed to be another favorite object of veneration. By the time the collector got to the images, however, the Niño fever appeared to have been in full force that the child was often missing.

WINGED/ D2

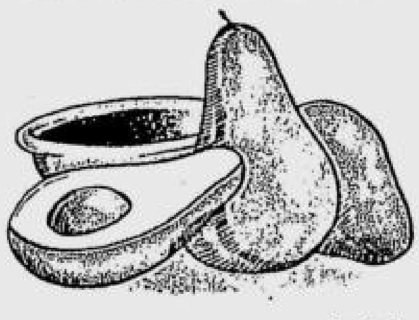


MADONNA and child

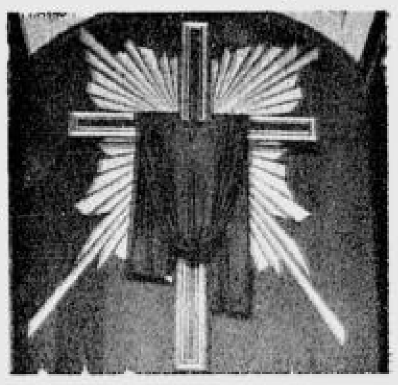


A ST. Augustine with ivory head and hands

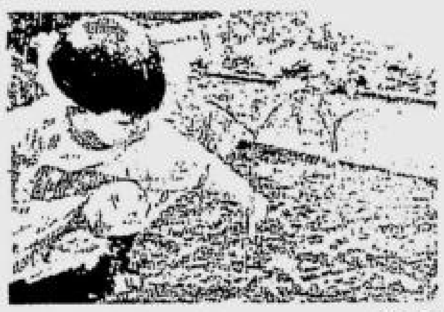
IN THIS ISSUE



Food and faith /E1



Reunifying the Christian flock /G1



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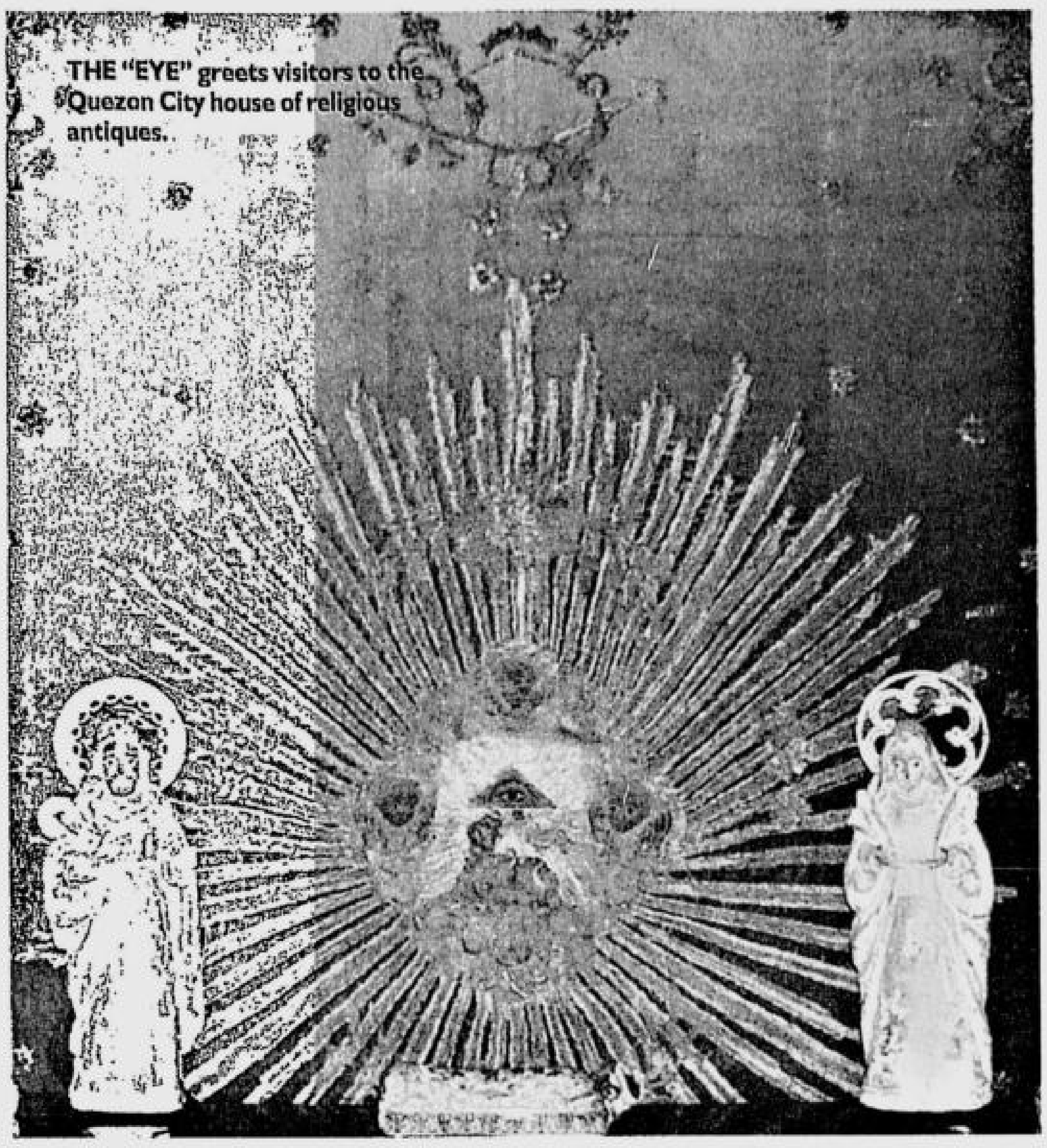


THE "EYE" greets visitors to the Quezon City house of religious antiques.

Winged saint— protector of Filipino homes in the past

From page D1

Another favored trio by earlier artists and religious was the Holy Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

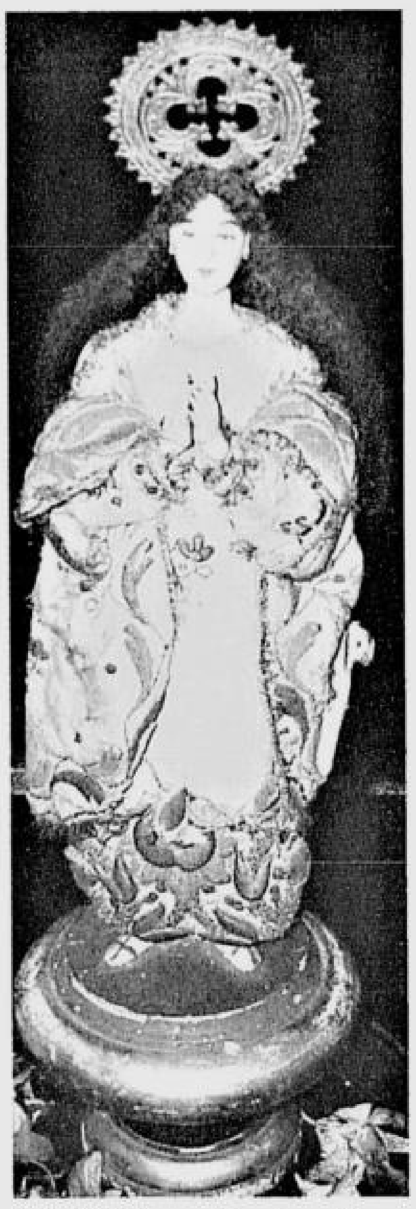
The collector was especially proud of a large painting of the coronation of the Virgin Mary after her ascension to heaven, which used to grace the hall of some monastery.

Also occupying pride of place are images of Mary as the Lady of Peñafrancia, patroness of the Bicol Region, and Nuestra Señora de los Remedios, patroness of the Malate Church.

One of the oldest (over a hundred years old) and most expensive pieces he got was the Virgen de Porteria which, as the name suggests, was often placed in the receiving area.

WOODEN image of St. Joseph is part of a Holy Family set.

THE VIRGIN Mary of the Holy Family s



A SMALL Virgen de los Remedios

THE BEAUTIFUL St. Barbara, who wa
removed from the revised Roman cal
and her cultus suppressed in 1969

A WOODEN image of the Virgin Mary by a Boholanon carver

ST. Joseph not wearing his usual green robes

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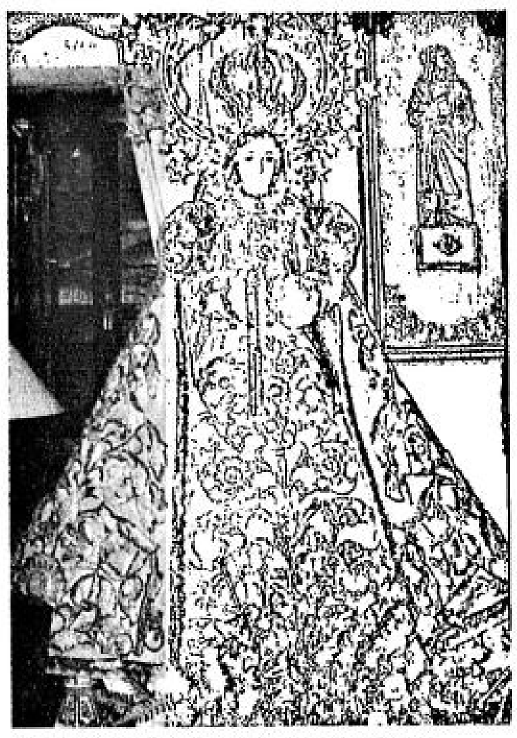
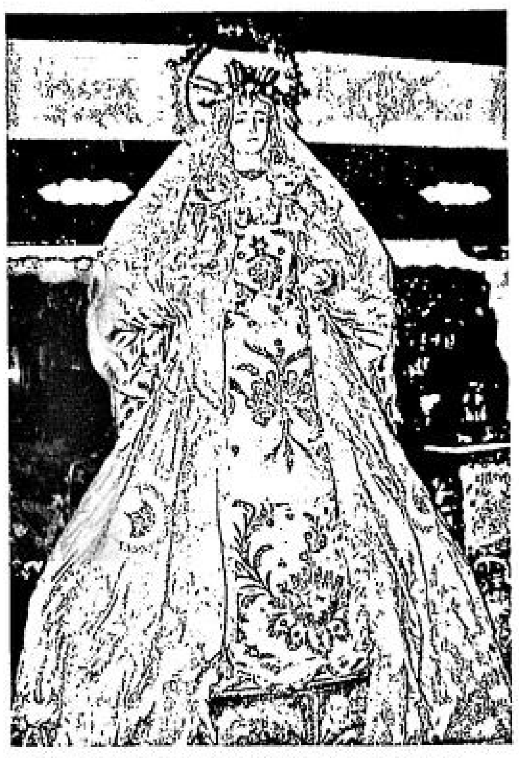
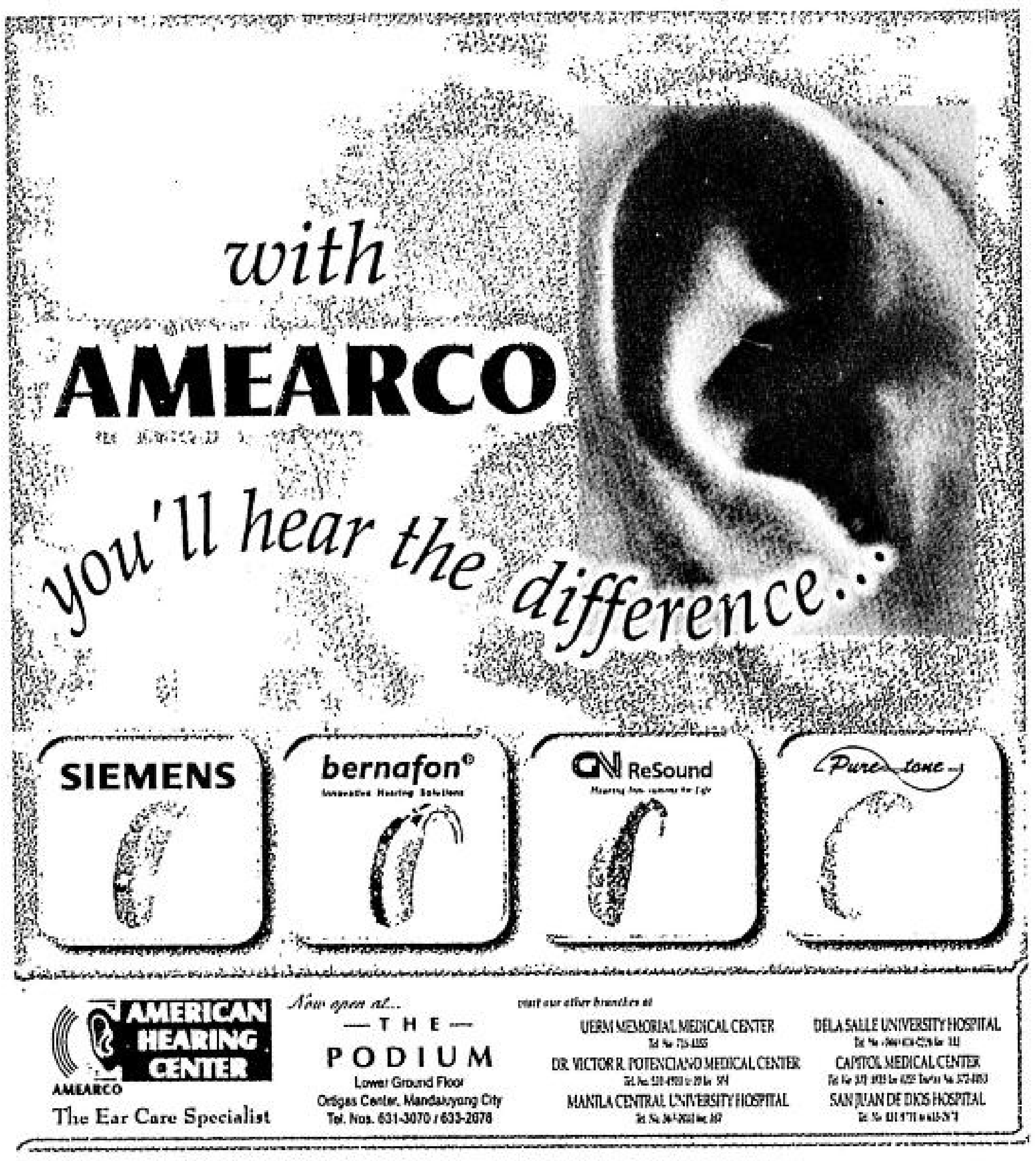


AN IMAGE of the patroness of Malate Church, the Virgen de los Remedios, with ivory head and hands



CENTURY-OLD Virgin Mary in elaborate dress has ivory head and hands.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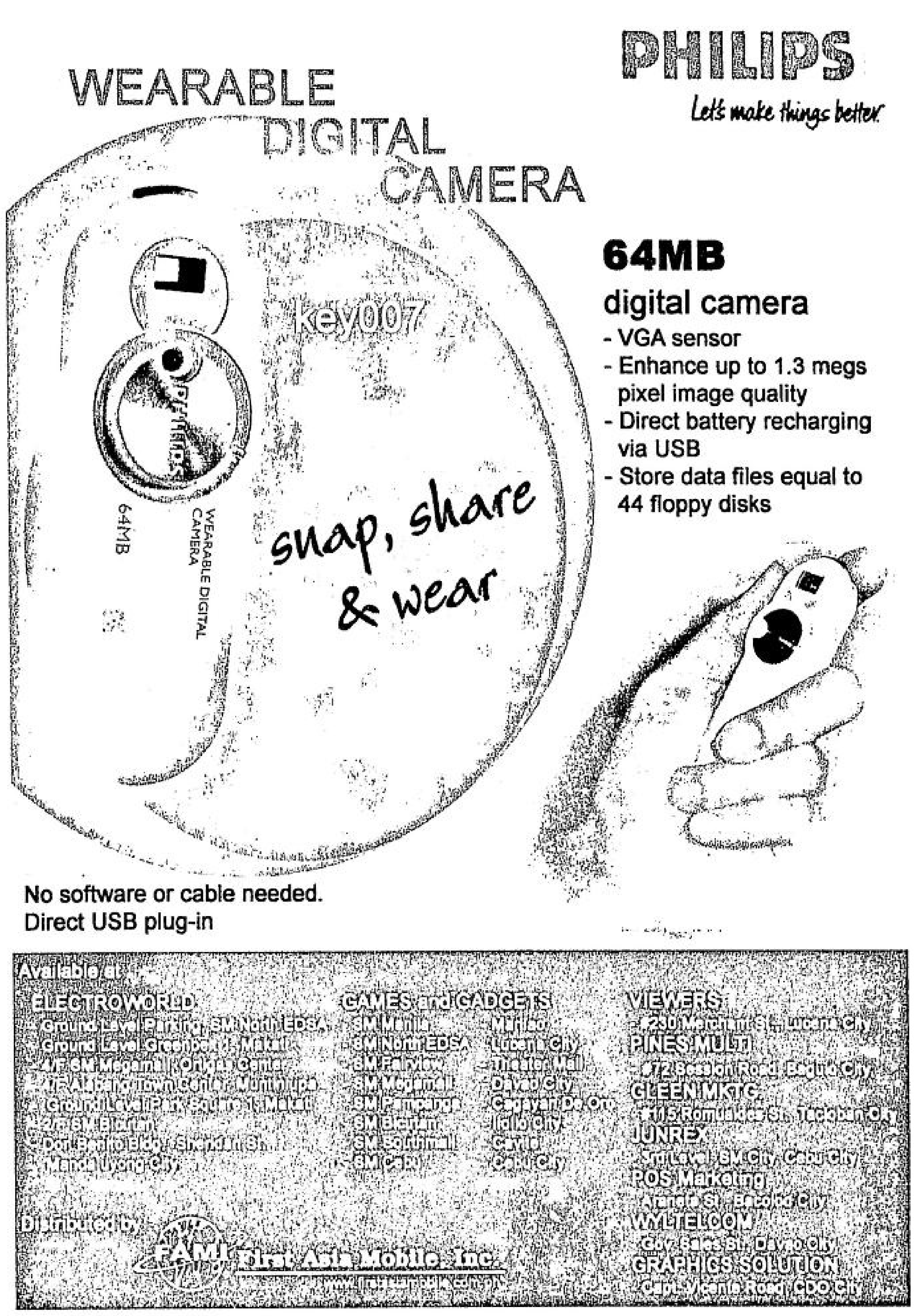
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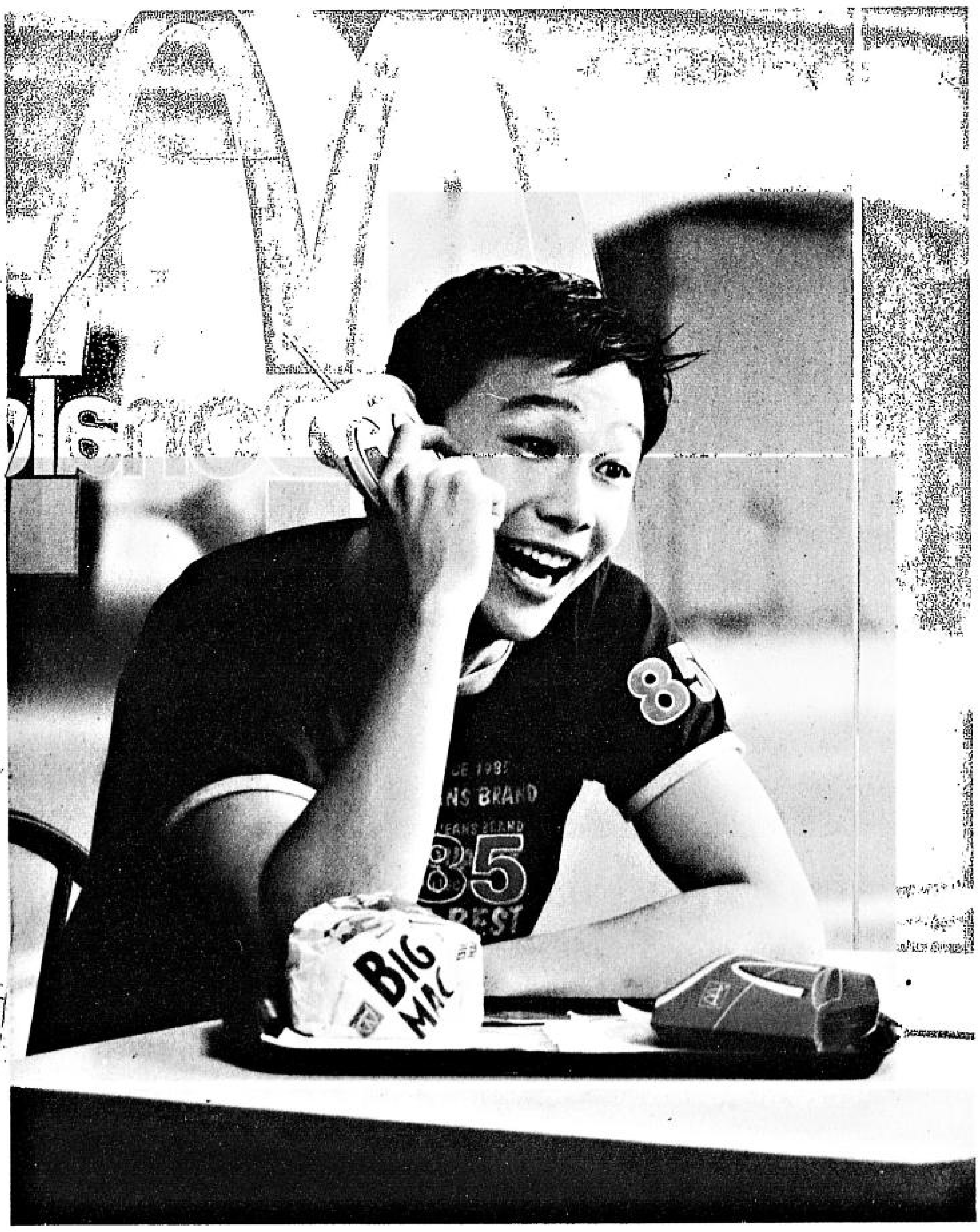

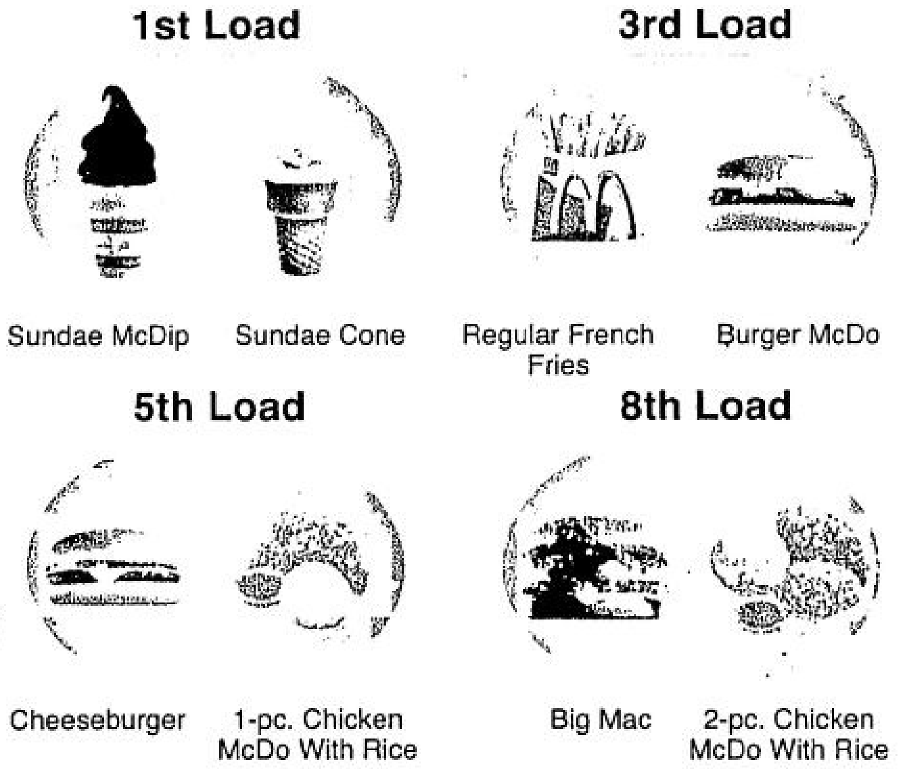
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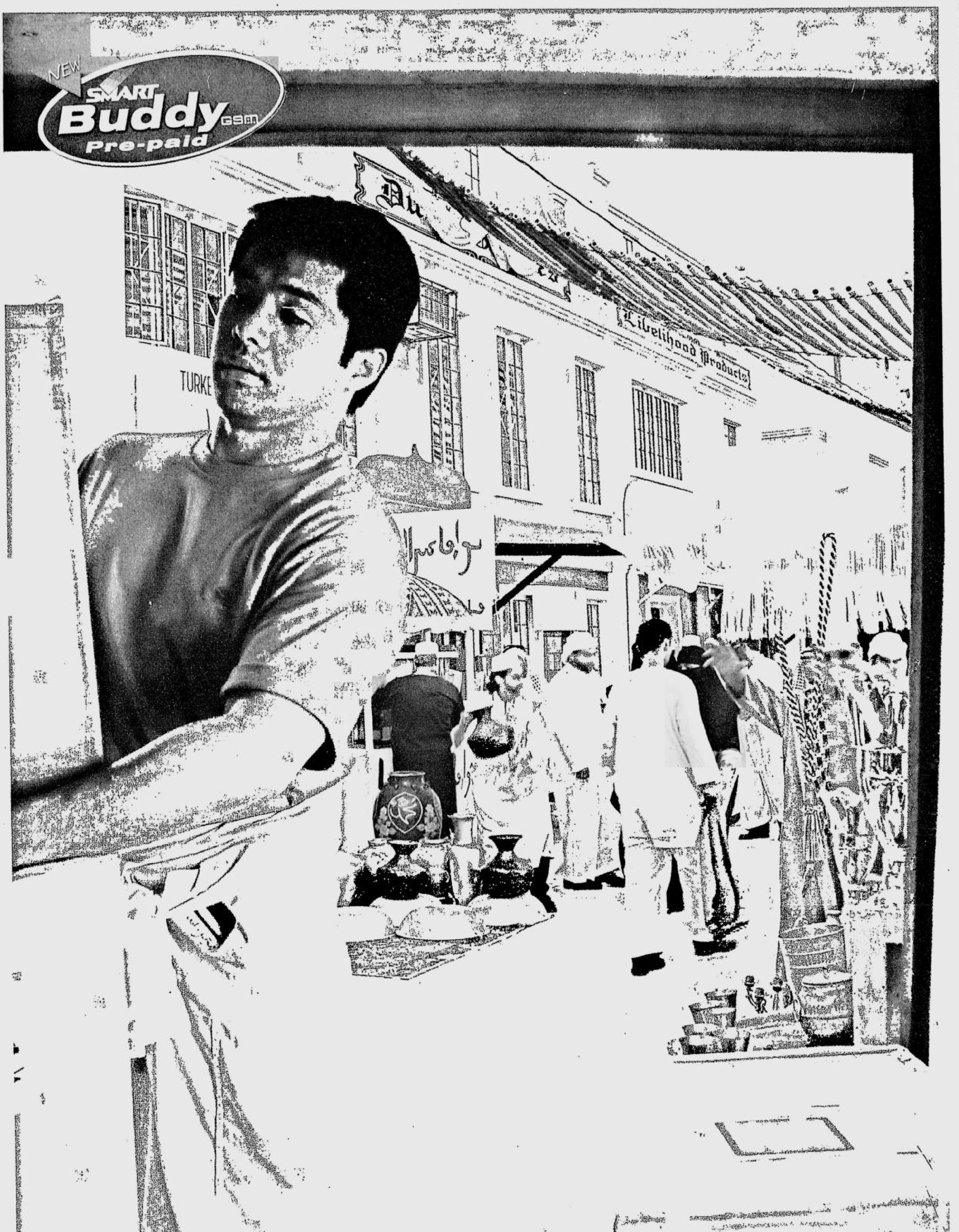
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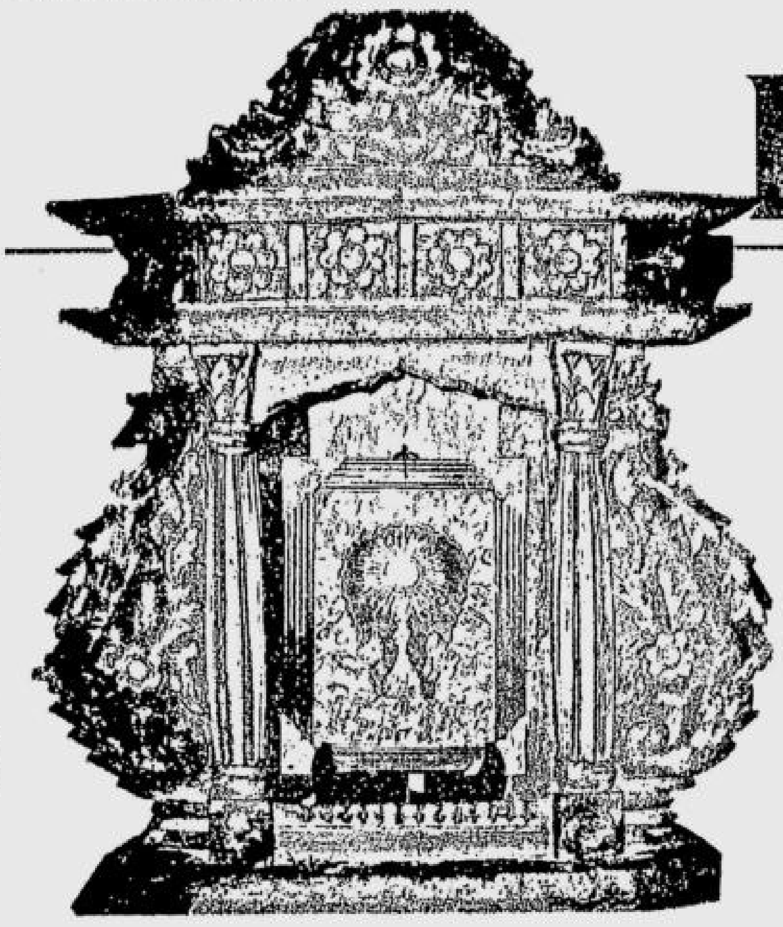

Holy days offer food as sacrament

FAITH finds its way to us through food, sense and memory. The dry, sweetish Communion host on the tongue. The sinus burn of Passover's grated horseradish. The sweet succulence of a plump fig to celebrate the end of Ramadan. The comforting squish of a macaroni casserole at a Protestant potluck.

Food has played a part in religious observance since humans first gave thanks to the Earth for its seeds and grasses.

April marks a time of spiritual spring cleaning as Jews scour their kitchens to prepare for Passover on Monday; Christians emerge from Lent (Easter is next Sunday); Zen Buddhists celebrate the Buddha's birth and the Baha'is honor Jalal, both on Friday; Hindus mark the solar new year (April 13); and pagans feast in honor of the goddess Hekate on April 19.

HOLY/E2

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Holy days offer . . .

From page E1

Food can be a literal and metaphorical welcome into a house of worship, and by extension, into the house of God, or divine creation.

Sacramental power of food

In "Food and Faith: Justice, Joy and Daily Bread," editor Michael Schut and other essayists explore the sacramental power of food within rituals, in communities and on a larger ecological scale.

"Food is not just fuel, it is communion. It represents the possibility of having communion with creation, with God's goodness," says Schut from his Seattle office at Earth Ministry, an ecumenical nonprofit group dedicated to applying Christian principles to the care of the Earth.

Through his writing and work with Earth Ministry, Schut poses this question: "If indeed our faith supports the premise that the world is a sacred place, what kind of daily choices would we make that embody the value and sacredness of life?"

We can begin with a simple, joyful shared meal, giving thanks for the bounty. Food connects us to the natural world—creation, in religious terms—which leads to questions about where that food comes from, and how.

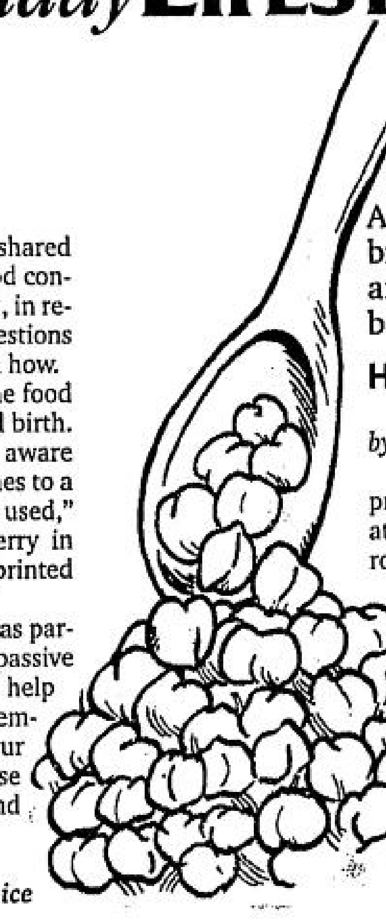
"Eating ends the annual drama of the food economy that begins with planting and birth. Most eaters, however, are no longer aware that this is true... How we eat determines to a considerable extent how the world is used," writes the ecologist poet Wendell Berry in "The Pleasures of Eating," in a work reprinted in "Food and Faith."

Schut urges us to think of ourselves as participants in agriculture, rather than passive consumers. He hopes his book will help each person "discern ways you might embody love and compassion through your everyday food choices and see how those choices can help create agricultural and economic systems that embody love."

It can start with a potluck.

NY Times News Service

Faith-full recipes



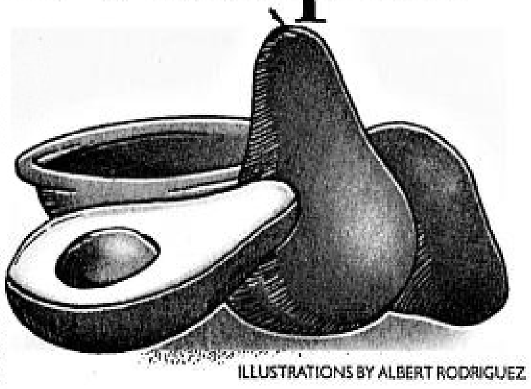
A NEW crop of cookbooks celebrates food from many faiths. Here are recipes from three of those books.

Hummus

From the "What Would Jesus Eat Cook Book" by Don Colbert, M.D.

"Instead of eating in a rushed, stressed and pressured manner, try eating the way Jesus ate, in a relaxed, peaceful atmosphere, surrounded with friends, laughing, conversing and enjoying life—but always start by blessing the food."

2 c garbanzo beans, rinsed (1 15-oz can plus part of a second one)
½ c tahini (sesame seed paste)
2 tbsp olive oil
1 clove garlic, minced
Juice of 2 medium lemons
½ tsp sea salt
½ tsp cumin



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Purée all ingredients in a food processor until smooth. Store in refrigerator. Serve with pita bread, crackers, vegetables or other dipping snacks.

Adapted by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, this recipe makes 4 cups.

Serving suggestion: Top toast rounds with hummus and pomegranate seeds for a surprising and addictive flavor combination.

Avocado Soup

From "The Secrets of Jesuit Soupmaking," by Brother Rick Curry

"The kitchen in the morning at Wernersville is sacred space... In a sense our order never sleeps, never lets the kitchen fire go wholly out—just as the Celts kept their hearths perpetually alight in ancient days. Even in the dark of night, there is a presence, a continuity of care for this kitchen that sustains us from one day to the next—a light in darkness."

3 large soft-ripe avocados
4 green onions, thinly sliced (use part of tops)
1 ¼-½ oz-can chicken broth
2 tbsp lime or lemon juice
½ tsp salt
½ tsp ground cumin
Pinch cayenne pepper
1 tbsp tequila
1 c Half-and-Half
Thin lime slices for garnish

Peel and pit avocados. Dice coarsely. (You should have about four cups) Place in a blender or food processor with green onions, broth, lime juice, salt, cumin and cayenne. Process until very smooth.

Pour into a large glass bowl and blend in tequila, then the Half-and-Half. Cover and refrigerate until thoroughly chilled, two to three hours. Stir well; garnish with a lime slice. Serves six.

Eggs Tonnato

From "Twelve Months of Monastery Salads" by Brother Victor-Antoine d'Avila-Latourrette

"Monastic cooking relies a great deal on the seasonal harvest of our gardens, farms and orchards. Monks know that nothing can compare with the freshness and excellence of the products grown within the confines of the monastic enclosure. Nothing is so deeply appreciated at the monastic table as a well-arranged, well-balanced salad..."

4 hard-boiled eggs, peeled
1 c mayonnaise, homemade or store-bought
2 tbsp ketchup
1 3½-oz can tuna, drained
1 tbsp fresh lemon juice
1 shallot, finely chopped
2 tbsp plain yogurt
1 tbsp capers, drained and chopped
1 3½-oz jar red pimento strips, drained and thinly sliced, for garnish
Finely chopped fresh dill for garnish

Slice eggs in half lengthwise. Place two halves on each plate, cut side up. In a blender, combine mayonnaise, ketchup, tuna, lemon juice, shallot, yogurt and capers; blend. Refrigerate until ready to use.

Just before serving, pour sauce over eggs. Garnish tops of eggs with pimento strips. Sprinkle dill over the dish and serve. Serves four.

NY Times News Service

Free summer star courses

ENJOY summer creatively, productively and cost-free. San Sebastian College-Recoletos, Manila offers free summer star course program for the 2004 elementary and high school graduates. The program, from April 12-24, will include the following five-course packages:

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Star Course 4—Basic Acting, TV Production, Investigative Journalism

Star Course 5—Flight Attending, Tour Guiding, Bartending Skills

The program is viewed to enhance the skills and productivity of the youth specifically incoming freshmen.

San Sebastian College, a member of the Recoletos community, has been existing for 57 years as a stable educational institution producing successful graduates in the area of business, law, arts and sciences.

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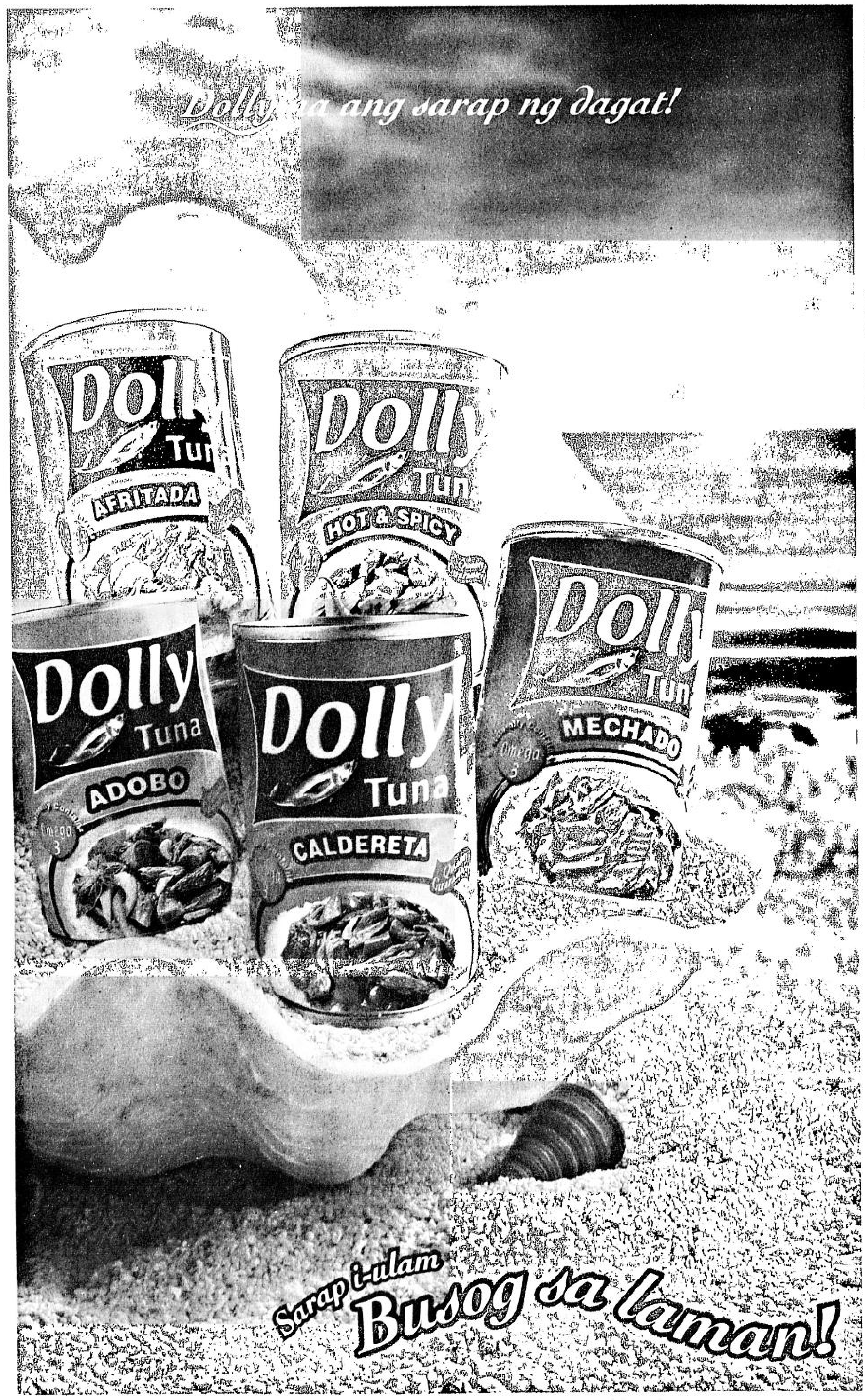

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New ambassador to Vatican

THE NEW Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See, Leonida L. Vera, was sworn into office by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo at the Malacañang Guest House.

Vera, Dame of the Pontifical Order of St. Sylvester and St. Gregory in 1994 and 1998, respectively, replaces Ambassador Francisco Alba, who retired in November.

Former Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin described the new ambassador as an active Church worker who will be an asset to the nation and the Church.

Bishop Socrates Villegas, who attended the oath-taking, expressed confidence the new ambassador would live up to the expectations of the government and the people.

Ambassador Vera said, among other things, she would work for the welfare of Filipino migrants and show the continuing concern, love and care of the government and people for them.

Vera worked for the United Nations Development Fund for Women and several religious organizations, including Caritas Manila, Council of Laity of Manila, Children Rosary Movement, Philippine Foundation for Rehabilitation of the Disabled and Paraclete Foundation. She was also director and secretary in 1977-1978 and 1979-1980, respectively, of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP).

Others at the oath-taking were members of Ambassador Vera's immediate family: Jose Luis, Ruthy, Lena and Luis L. Vera Jr., as well as Sigfrido M. Laki, Tomasa L. Razon and Amelia L. Lantin.

ON BEHALF of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo swears in Leonida Vera as the new ambassador to the Vatican City in a ceremony on March 26 at Malacañang's Premier Guest House. Also in photo are Bishop Socrates Villegas (left) and Ambassador Vera's family.

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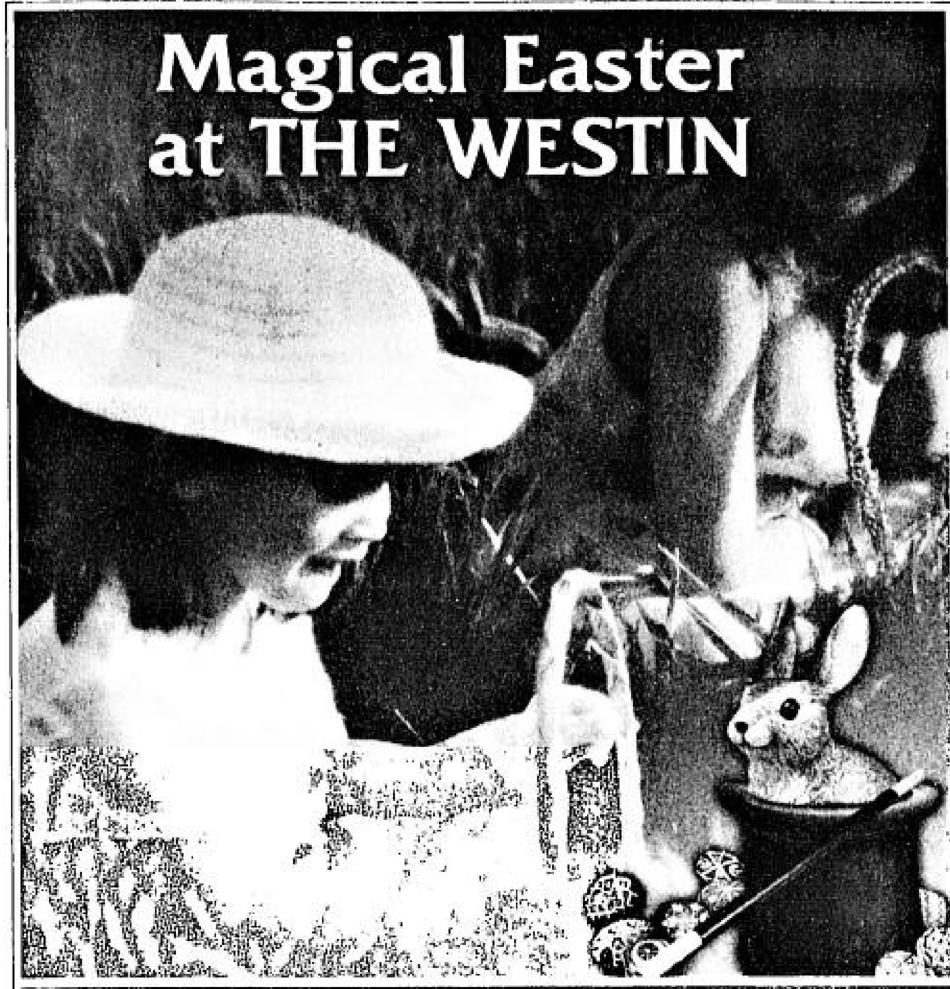
Magical Easter at THE WESTIN



Free tickets for 2 adults and 2 kids to the Magical Easter Party at the Sunset Pavilion for guests availing of the room-promo from April 2-11 and one ticket for every Easter Brunch Buffet at Cafe Plaza.

WESTIN KIDS CLUB

Free access to fun games and prizes at the clubhouse daily, from April 2 to 11

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8:30am - EASTER MASS / 10:30am - 2:30pm - EASTER BRUNCH BUFFET: 1200++ adults / 600++ kids 12 yrs. old & below / 9am - 4pm - EGG HUNT & FUN ACTIVITIES / 3pm - LOU HILARIO MAGIC SHOW WITH PUPPET & EXOTIC BIRD SHOW

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MARC Nelson and the girls

PRETTY models in fun, hip sportswear

GOLF guests at HSBC. Johnny Litton, Marixi Prieto, Cesar and Marivic Buenaventura

Fun, fit and fearless ain't just for Cosmo girls!

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

With so many options out there, keeping healthy has never been so hip

THE WORLD is so different now. Our lives have changed so much with the advancement of telecommunications technology. We have come a long way from dialing a number with a ballpoint pen on a rotary phone. In fact, kids these days don't know what a "rotary phone" is. The weight alone of the handset has been reduced by more than half.

In the fitness world, things have advanced as well. Long gone are the days of working out in front of the TV to a **Jane Fonda** aerobics session (in the defunct betamax format). Even more extinct is that fat-shaking machine, in which a belt was put around the waist and the body was intensely shaken to (theoretically) remove the excess fat. Did we really believe that?

A lean, agile and strong body is now the latest accessory. Sportswear has become the new fashion. And exchanging diet and nutrition tips has become part of cocktail conversations.

Of course, I am still in transition mode from the cocktail hour to hitting the courts, but I am getting there somehow. And these days, the "courts" don't mean tennis or squash, but the latest rave, badminton.

Although quick fixes (and the choices are endless) with our fave beauty enhancer Dr. **Vicky Belo** are easily available, there is an overall growing concern for long-term healthy living. Even party-animal supremo **Tim Yap** is in the gym almost daily, so I know it's not only the ladies in my age bracket who are into this lifestyle.

Sporty living

With so much emphasis on sports lately, a new development has incorporated a sports complex into the condominium set-up. At the launch of the Metropolitan, a luxury high-rise condominium and the Metro Athletic Club (MAC), emphasis was on sports—from the requisite fashion show to the sports consultants milling around creating positive energy.

The most positive of the MAC sports consultants even has a Nike "swoosh" sign permanently tattooed on her lower back. Kickboxing princess **Chinggay Andrada** has true-to-life Lara Croft form and strength. She has become the end-goal of my fitness training. I have arranged to start classes with her after I get bored with playing badminton.

Another sports consultant is INQUIRER's fitness guru, **Tina Juan**. She not only teaches different types of exercise, including yoga and Pilates, but she is an expert as well in weight training. So one thing is for sure—this very knowledgeable chick is tops in her field.

The fashion show featuring several sporty hip brands like Nike, Quicksilver and New Balance had some nice summer wear that could compliment even not-so-shapely bodies. I have tested the brands they sell at Aura Athletica in my yoga class and running. But they look so much better on the models than on me! Maybe I need to do more, like start kickboxing lessons as well.

I am practically in the Rockwell area almost daily, whether it's for Flamenco or belly-dancing classes with my super exotic teacher, **Ginajane Grey**, or shopping in Planet Sports for my fitness gear. So I know how convenient it is to live around this area where the Metropolitan will be, directly across Rockwell.

With eventual residents automatically becoming members at the MAC, **Rally Martinez**, Philtown president, told me there would surely be a new breed of healthier urbanites. I added that since Emphasis Salon is just around the corner, they could feel good inside and look good outside, too.

It's nice to know people still have faith in the country by investing locally. That's my excuse for shopping and buying Filipino products. My husband, **Dennis**, gives it an economic twist, saying I am stimulating the variable C for consumption, thus contributing to

FUN/F3

RALLY Martinez, Philip Cu-Unjieng, Marissa and Joey Concepcion

HEALTH buffs Ming and Tina Juan

LOVELY guests Michelle Reyes and Peachy Concepcion

NASH Benitez and Tina Periquet

HANDSOME CEOs golfing. HSBC's Warner Manning and Shangri-La Group of Companies' Tom Zita

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Christ's Last Words in myGlobe

This Holy Week we are reminded of how Christ suffered to redeem us from our sins.

We can relive His Passion with myGlobe's slew of Lenten services.

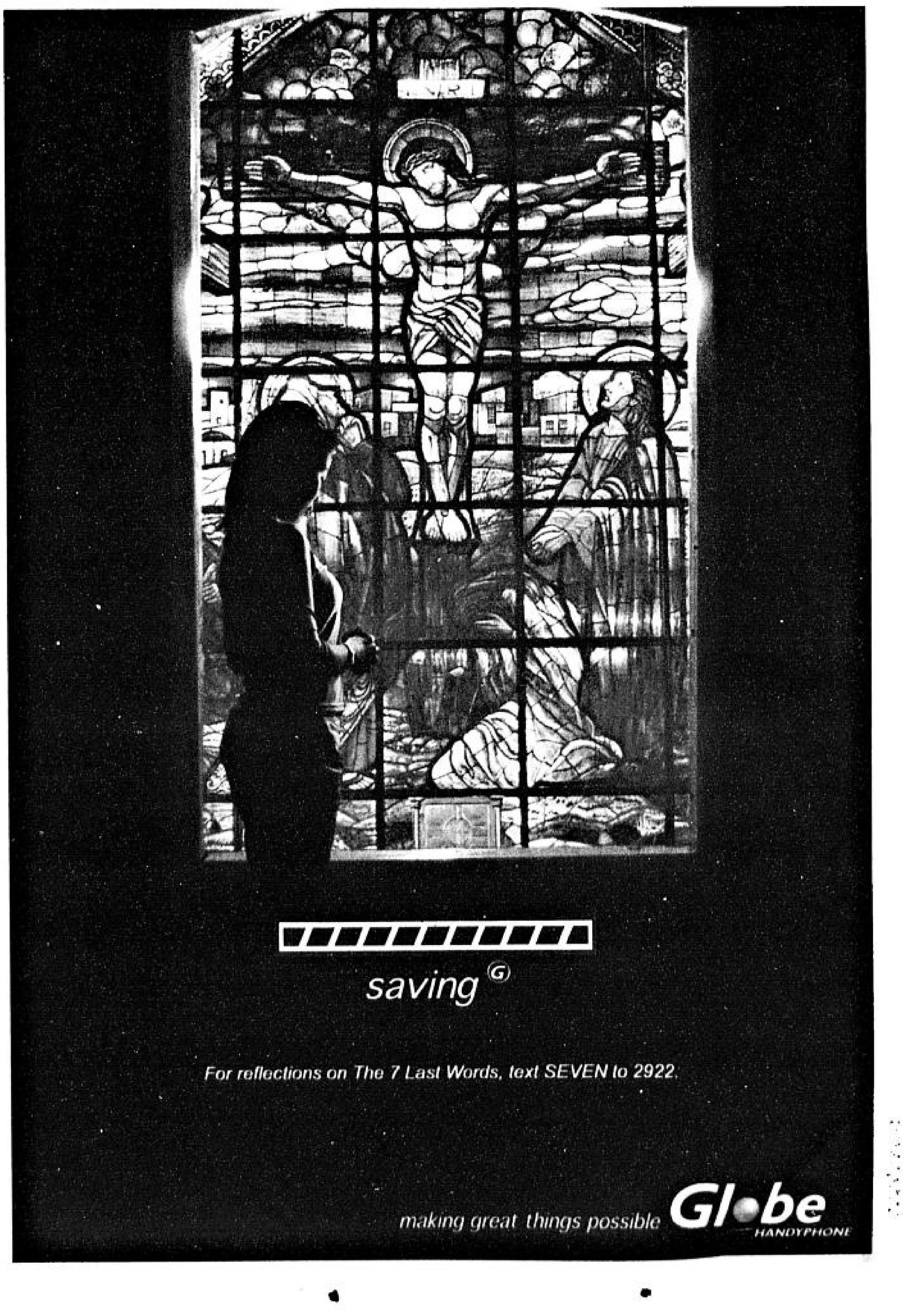
On Good Friday, you can receive the Savior's Seven Last Words on your Globe from 9am to 3pm. Just text SEVEN to 2922.

To guide you while locating churches for your *Visita Iglesia*, text FINDME CHURCH to 2333.

Get the scriptures everyday by texting BIBLE to 2363. You can also text GOODNEWS to 29766 for your daily reflections. Or receive them in Filipino by texting SÀGLIT to 2346.

Text PRAY <your petition> to 29766 to have your prayer requests interceded by Jesuit priests.

With myGlobe, you get relevant Lenten services you want in this season of renewal. Advt.



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Congratulations to all AHEAD students who passed the 2003-2004 Ateneo, La Salle and U.P. college entrance tests.

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EVERY little girl's dream room

OUR fave feline feels perfectly at home in her very own suite at the Westin.

DIRECTOR for marketing Rose Libongco hands over the welcome key card to Hello Kitty.

A Kitty of fun

Westin Philippine Plaza offers the Hello Kitty Suite holiday

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza offers the Hello Kitty fun family package.

A two-bedroom suite is transformed into every little girl's dream bedroom in pristine white and blush pink to match the adorable Hello Kitty accessories from the headboard to the bedsheets, table lamps, mirror, wall clock, telephone and television. The theme is repeated in cute bathroom amenities and Hello Kitty snacks and goodies at the mini-bar.

The Hello Kitty Suite Holiday package is available until May 31 in celebration of Kitty's 30th birthday.

Guests availing of the package get a chance to win a Sanrio showcase. Qualified purchases at Gift Gate will allow one to join a raffle for an overnight stay at the Hello Kitty Suite.

The family package for a two-bedroom suite is at P12,000 net inclusive of buffet breakfast for six persons, use of the Westin Kids Clubhouse (WKC) for four children, and three raffle coupons.

It is also available as a one-bedroom suite at P7,500 net with buffet breakfast for four, two WKC vouchers and two raffle coupons, while the deluxe room is at P4,700 net with buffet breakfast for two, two WKC vouchers and one raffle coupon.

Call 8326991/93 or 5515555 local 1991 to 95, or e-mail reservations@westinmanila.com.

Holy week hideaway in Subic

WHITE Rock Beach Hotel, a triple-A-rated establishment in Subic, offers a number of packages for tourists and vacationers this Holy Week.

The Holy Week package includes accommodations and breakfast, lunch and dinner gourmet buffets.

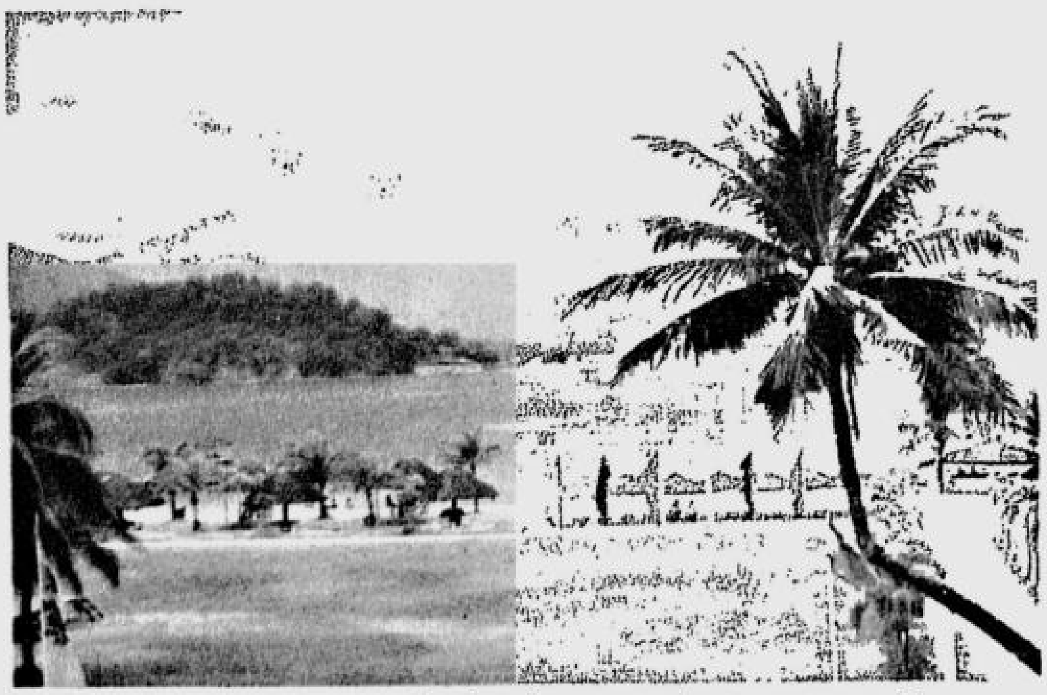
Overnighters have a choice of taking their meals by the beach or at the elegant Sunset Café, with varied themes ranging from Tempura Night, Grill Night, Italian Night, Mongolian BBQ Night, Hawaiian Night, Fiesta Filipiniana and Continental cuisine.

Overnight packages will include free use of the recreation areas, badminton and volleyball courts, the newly-installed workout gym, free set-up of beach games, KTV private rooms and bonfire after dinner.

White Rock's refurbished Mediterranean-inspired rooms feature cable TV, telephones, and mini-refrigerators.

"The surroundings are very much secure and kept private for your total relaxation and comfort. Expect to be given a sincere smile and greeted with warmth by our staff, whose constant goal is to treat guests as family," says White Rock chair George U. Lorenzana.

A wide array of water sports at Greg's Waterworld, manned by professional instructors with first-rate equipment, allows for jet skiing, sailing, water biking, snorkeling and *banca* rides. Scuba diving, parasailing, fishing and other deep-sea activities can be arranged with Johann's Adventure.



WHITE Rock Beach Hotel in Subic offers first-class resort and water sports amenities.

After all the beach excitement, indulge in a soothing massage at the new Wellness Center. Professional facial care, hand and foot spa, and varied salon services are also available.

Lastly, White Rock has several play areas, kiddie pools set up with slides and water basketball for children's enjoyment. Video games have also been installed for added excitement. Lifeguards and security personnel are always on hand to ensure the safety of everyone.

Call 4212781-82/84/86 or fax 4212785/83. Visit the website at www.whiterocksubic.com.

?
THANK YOU!!!
Steph

An angel in the arcade

By Pam Pastor

IT was almost midnight on a weekday. After watching "50 First Dates," my boyfriend and I were in Timezone at Greenbelt, trying to outdo each other at the different games.

I beat him at air hockey, he creamed me at basketball. Still unsatisfied, we went back to the booth to reload our card. But the arcade gods weren't smiling at us. They were about to close and reloading wasn't allowed anymore.

Feeling defeated, we went to the drum machine to try our luck one last time. No go. The P9 we had left in our card wasn't enough to buy us one last game.

Suddenly, a man carrying a big black bag appeared out of nowhere. He was holding a bunch of Powercards and he swiped one on the drum machine.

The man motioned for me to start playing. "*Sige na, para hindi na kayo mag*-load," he said, smiling.

We smiled back at him. Then I turned to Vin and we started communicating with our eyes. I could see that he found the whole thing weird. I did too.

I sat down and started playing, all the while trying to shake off the strange feeling.

It wasn't easy. My normally overactive imagination became even more active. Was this guy crazy? Why would he do that? Was this little episode about to become a twisted version of Hansel and Gretel with arcade games substituting for gingerbread? Were Vin and I going to wake up the next morning all stitched up, organs torn off and sold to public hospitals? (I know, I need therapy.)

The man stood beside me, swiping the card every now and then. By the time I was done playing the first round, he was gone. He had left us with five free games.

When the five games were over, we got ready to leave. We tried to look for the man so we could thank him, but he was gone.

"Was he an angel?" Vin kidded. I laughed, but our little encounter had me thinking: Why was it so hard for me to believe that a man could do something like that without expecting anything in return?

And then I realized it wasn't just me.

Disbelief

Last December, I thought about doing a little something for the people who would be working on Christmas Eve. My cousins and I filled goodie bags with sandwiches, packs of juice, peanuts, candies and fruits.

Then, after our family *noche buena*, we drove around Metro Manila, giving the bags out to jeepney drivers, bus drivers and barkers, cab drivers, convenience store salesclerks, people manning gas stations and firemen on duty.

Their disbelief at our attempt at spreading joy was evident in their eyes. While most of them recovered fast enough to be able to smile and throw back a cheerful "Merry Christmas," there were those who didn't.

Like the lady at Burger Machine who just stared at me. And the cab driver who refused to roll down his window so I could hand him a bag. He sped away so fast you'd think I was trying to rob him.

That reminded me of that day last year when someone sent me a box of lemon squares just as I was leaving the office. Because I was feeling extra in love with the world, I wanted to share them—even with strangers. I gave a few to the guards and the man driving the cab I hailed. I dropped by a 24-hour restaurant and offered the pastries to some people sitting near me, but they looked at me like I was trying to poison them.

Forget it, I thought to myself, hiding the box.

I had seen that look countless times before. When I ask cab drivers to stop by fastfood restaurants and I buy an extra meal for them. When people watch me pick up stray cats off the streets. When I offer help to total strangers.

The disbelief. The bafflement. The awkwardness. You could almost read their minds: Should I trust this person?

When did we become so suspicious and so cynical? Have we all been scarred so badly that we've become almost allergic to kindness? Is the kindness of a stranger such a rare occurrence that we have lost the power to recognize it?

Perhaps this is our coping mechanism to be able to survive in a society where everyone seems to have an agenda and everything seems to be a modus operandi.

Rules

We've all heard the rules—from friends, from relatives.

Don't stop when you see someone with engine problems; that person might try to rob or kidnap you. Don't give street children a single centavo; they're being used by gangs to make money. Ignore anyone who asks you for the time because someone will grab your wallet or bag while you're looking at your watch.

It's sad to be living in a world where the desire for safety may be synonymous to a campaign for anti-kindness.

But who can blame people for wanting to avoid trouble?

Mind your own business, avoid strangers and save yourself a lot of grief. Even I have started listening to that—more and more every day.

But that encounter with the man from Time Zone showed me that, yes, kindness still exists. And that was reaffirmed by a cab ride I took a few days later.

The driver suddenly broke the silence and said, "*Ano kayo, Jollibee o McDo?*"

Before I could answer, he handed a discount coupon for McDonald's to me. "*Ayan o. Sa'yo na lang. Madaming binigay sa akin kanina, hindi ko naman mauubos. Sayang naman.*"

I thanked him and held on to the coupon tightly, for more reasons than the discount.

That man reminded me of another driver who found a P20-bill on the floor of his taxi. He wanted to split it with me. That almost made me cry. He wanted to split a P20 with me when just earlier he was telling me about how big of a struggle it was to send all his children to school.

The cynic in me isn't dead yet. But thanks to the angel from the arcade and the two cab drivers, it has been wounded. Badly.

I am looking forward to being hit with more bullets. I know that despite war, differences, cruelty and disparity, this world still has more ammo left.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

Fun, fit and fearless ain't just for Cosmo girls!

From page F1

GNP—in my case, by a significant percent.

Social golfing

Going back to the world of sports, even the banking industry has included golf tournaments in its annual events. Hosting them has become so popular; two banks had one on the same day.

Unlike social partying that allows you to hop from one affair to another, social golfing has you locked up for four hours in the course. So trying to do two events in one day is impossible.

I ended up joining the HSBC event simply because they asked me first. Proper etiquette still prevails. And besides, I have made friends with their executives, like **Aloy Alday** and **Laine Santana**, so they give me VIP treatment like teeing off on the No. 1 tee, even if I am a lousy golfer.

The Eagle Ridge Golf Course has four courses and I teed off on the easiest one. At least, that's what Laine said, but I was in so many of their deep sand bunkers that I felt like I was in Boracay. I played terribly but won a raffle prize, so that compensated for it.

The bank's president, **Warner Manning**, is so into fitness that he challenged the HSBC staff, customers and friends to a Charity Marathon from their oldest branch to their newest, a total of 15 km from Binondo to The Fort. Since I had been training for an upcoming triathlon, I knew that distance wasn't going to be a walk in the park. It's not even a jog, it's a slog.

Walk With Warner had a twist—if he failed to finish the event, the pledges made would be returned and he would contribute the total pledge amount himself. But complete the course he did! In addition, he still personally contributed 10 percent of the total pledged amount. The collected pledge was donated to the Children's Hour and the Stepping Stone Learning Center for Special Children.

Taking a cue from there, I thought of doing a version of this marathon, but in a mall. It would be a shopping quest with several tasks included, like finding bargains under P100 or spotting the perfect gift for someone like ever-so-generous **Virgie Ramos**.

If I couldn't complete the tasks, I would cover all pledges made. Or I could make another sacrifice, say, refraining from shopping for a month. But I'd prefer to pay the fine. And my charity would be my new favorite, Gawad Kalinga.

The sports scene is so happening now that there was even a whole trade show exhibit in Greenbelt that just finished yesterday. Adventure Sports Fair featured some interesting activities like surfing, wakeboarding, kite boarding, flag football, and ultimate Frisbee, to name a few.

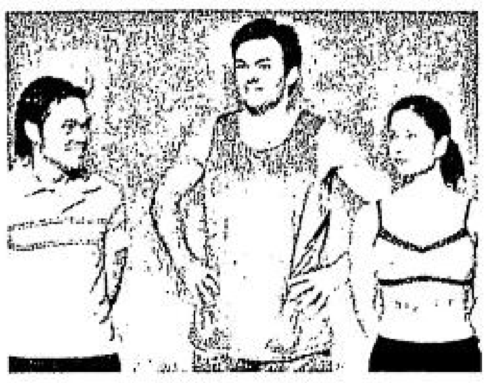
Also present was the Philippine Underwater Hockey Club, whose members just represented our country in the world championships in New Zealand.

With so many options, being fit has never been so hip. So remember, play and display! Happy summer!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

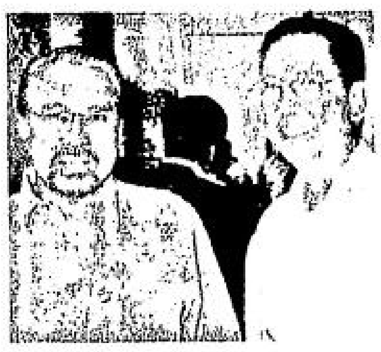
FASHIONABLE DAMES. Karin Igual, Susan Syquia, Michelle Dayrit and Martha Orosa-Uy

INQUIRER's Marixi Prieto is one of the deep bunkers of Eagle Ridge.



MAC sports consultants C-Jay Suarez, Alex Compton and Chinggay Andrada

EMIL and Cricket Abello enjoying the evening



MAC Group's Bombit Buencamino and MetroClub president and chair Boyer Syquia

WARNER Manning and a contingent of HSBC staff at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas on their way to the finish line at Fort Bonifacio. The Charity Marathon collected pledges for underprivileged kids.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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What's hatching?!

As new life greets us this Easter, the festivity begins here.

From April 1 to 15, local residents may avail a special rate of P1,500 net per night for a superior room accommodation. This offer is valid for a minimum stay of two nights.

In observance of Lent, historical churches are nearby for the traditional Visita Iglesia.

On April 11, celebrate Easter by joining the hunt for the golden egg at our Coral Ballroom, for only P380 net for kids and P680 net for kids-at-heart. This includes buffet brunch, plus a captivating Easter show.

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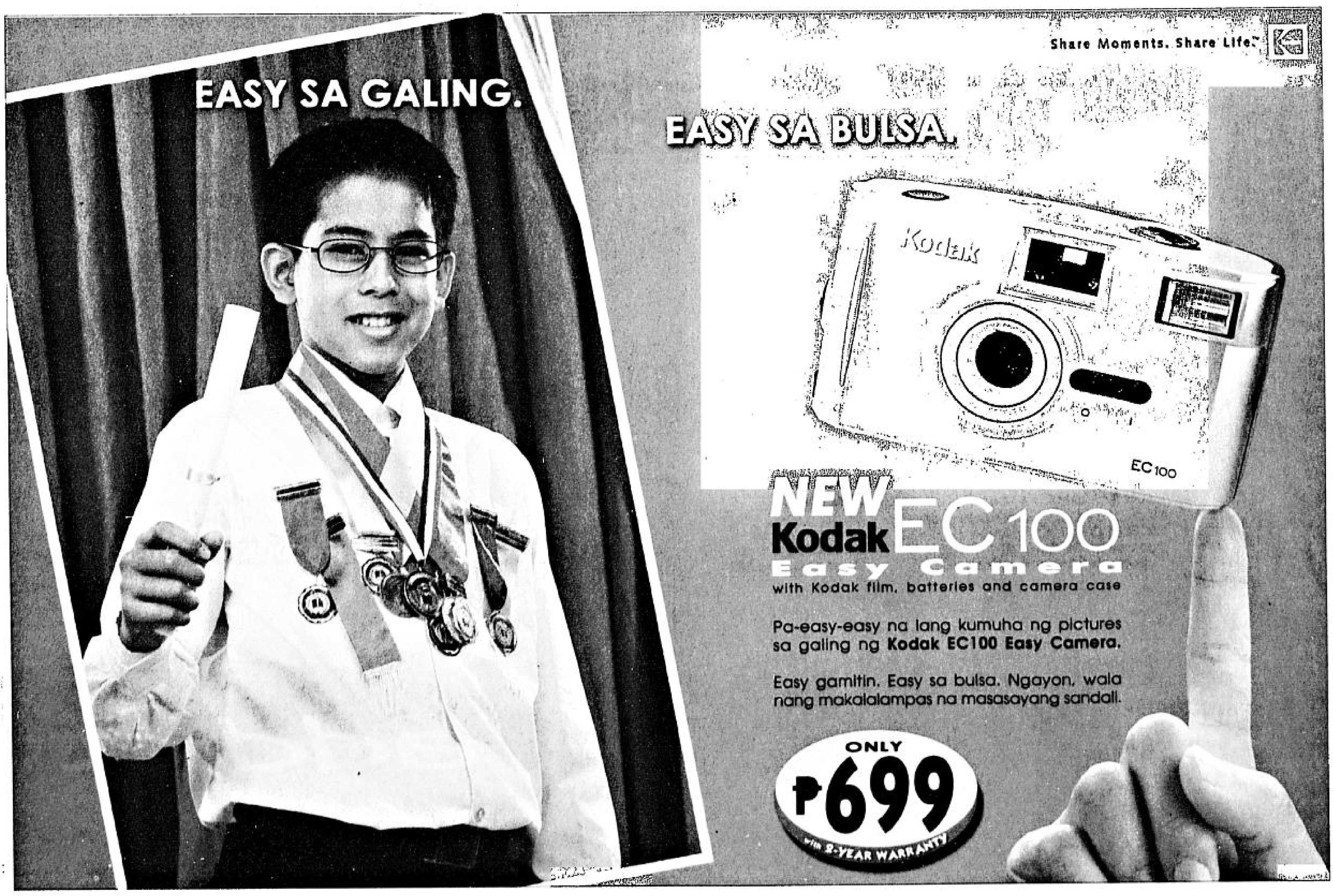

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April 7, 2004 (Wednesday)

Ultimate Frisbee	Hey Jude Beachfront
Chill Out Sunsets	Club House Parao
House Party	Hey Jude

April 8, 2004 (Thursday)

Ultimate Frisbee Hat Tournament	Hey Jude Beachfront
Volleyball	Hey Jude Beachfront
Chill Out Sunsets	Club House Parao
BIGFISH Chillout Sunset Session	Waling-Waling
Carlota Drumbeaters	Boracay Terraces Resort
R&B Party by Steve Mills	Hey Jude
Sunset Sessions at the Pearl	Pearl of the Pacific
Philippine Hobie Opening Party	Diniwind Cove

April 9, 2004 (Friday)

Hobie Triangle Course Race	Race Proper
Wakeboarding Competition	Beachfront
BIGFISH Chillout Sunset Session	Waling-Waling
Boracay Mardi Gras	Gold Crown
Sunset Sessions at the Pearl	Pearl of the Pacific

April 10, 2004 (Saturday)

Wakeboarding Competition	Beachfront
Chill Out Sunsets	Club House Parao
Sunset Sessions at the Pearl	Pearl of the Pacific
BIGFISH Chillout Sunset Session	Waling-Waling
Nocturnal Invasion	Boracay Terraces
Addict/Studio 23 Beach House Party	Aria Beachfront
Hobie Triangle Awards Night	Nami Villas
Slinky	Hey Jude

April 11, 2004 (Sunday)

Chill Out Sunsets	Club House Parao
Sunset Sessions at the Pearl	Pearl of the Pacific

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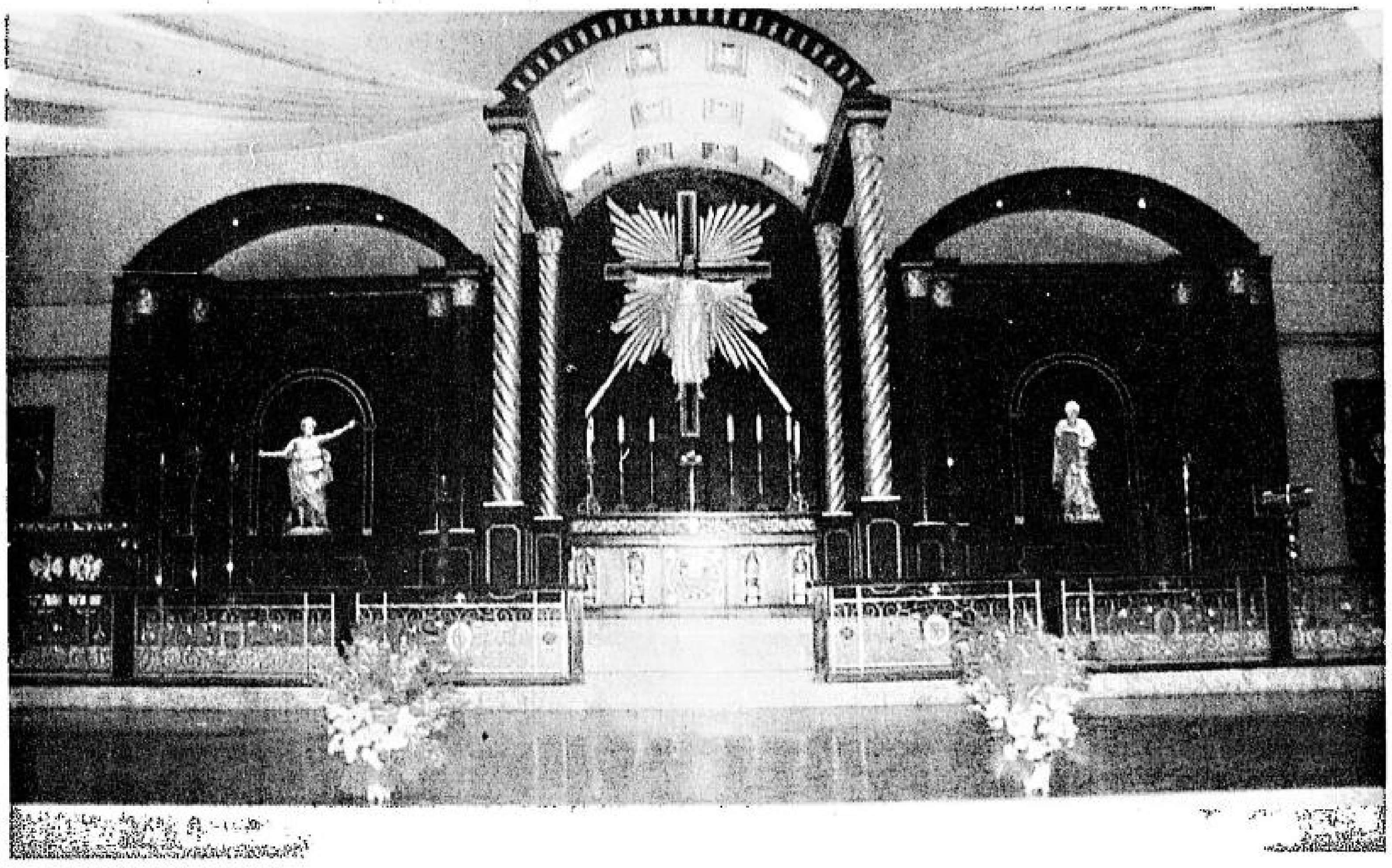
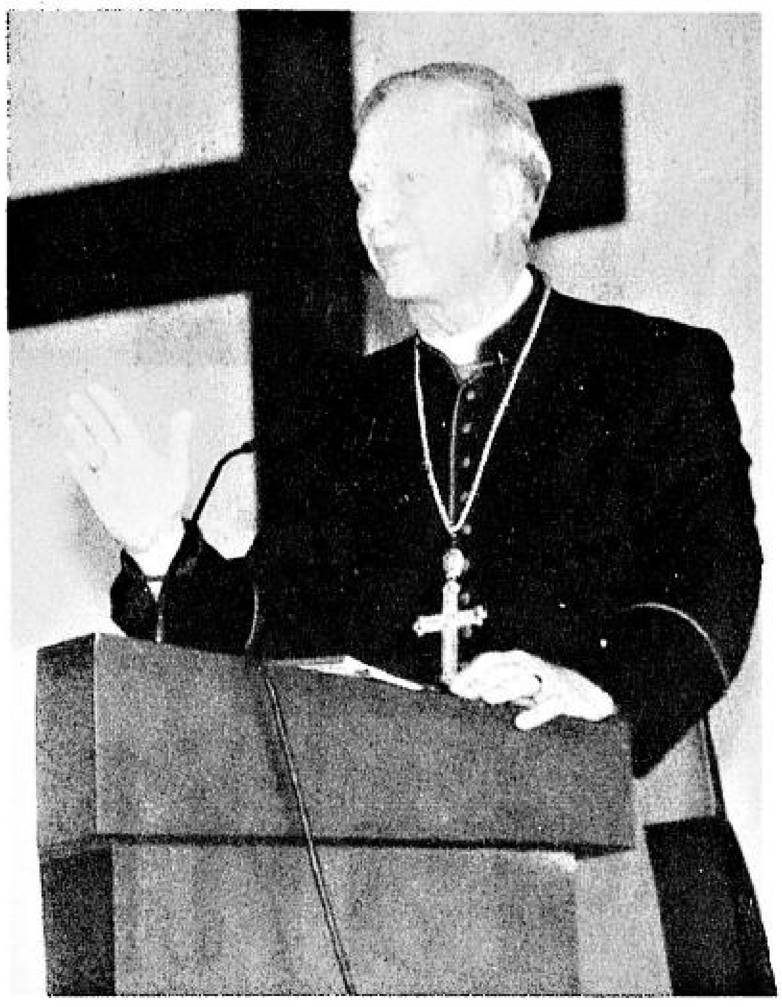
Pam Pastor encounters an 'angel' in the arcade /F2





GRAND Altar of the Transfiguration of the Charismatic Episcopal Church's Cathedral of the King in Mandaluyong City (above left), which is overseen by Archbishop Loren Thomas Hines, primate for Southeast Asia (above)

Mission: reunify the faith

Manila will host the first international convocation of the Charismatic Episcopal Church in June

By Gibbs Cadiz

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Other bloody divisions would follow. The Anglican Church split from Rome over the pope's refusal to sanction King Henry VIII's divorce from his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. Martin Luther led a worldwide reformation that gave rise to the Protestant church and its many denominations.

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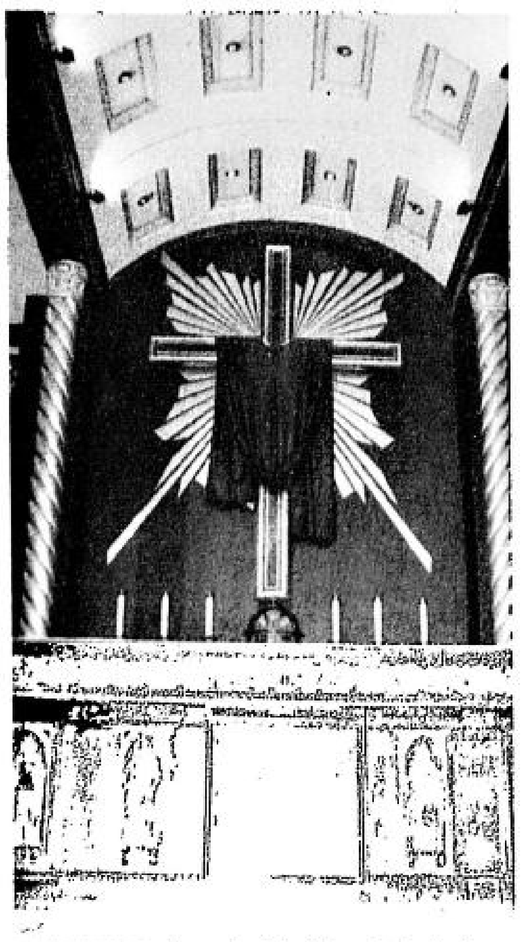

THE CROSS draped with violet cloth during Lent—a distinctly Catholic touch

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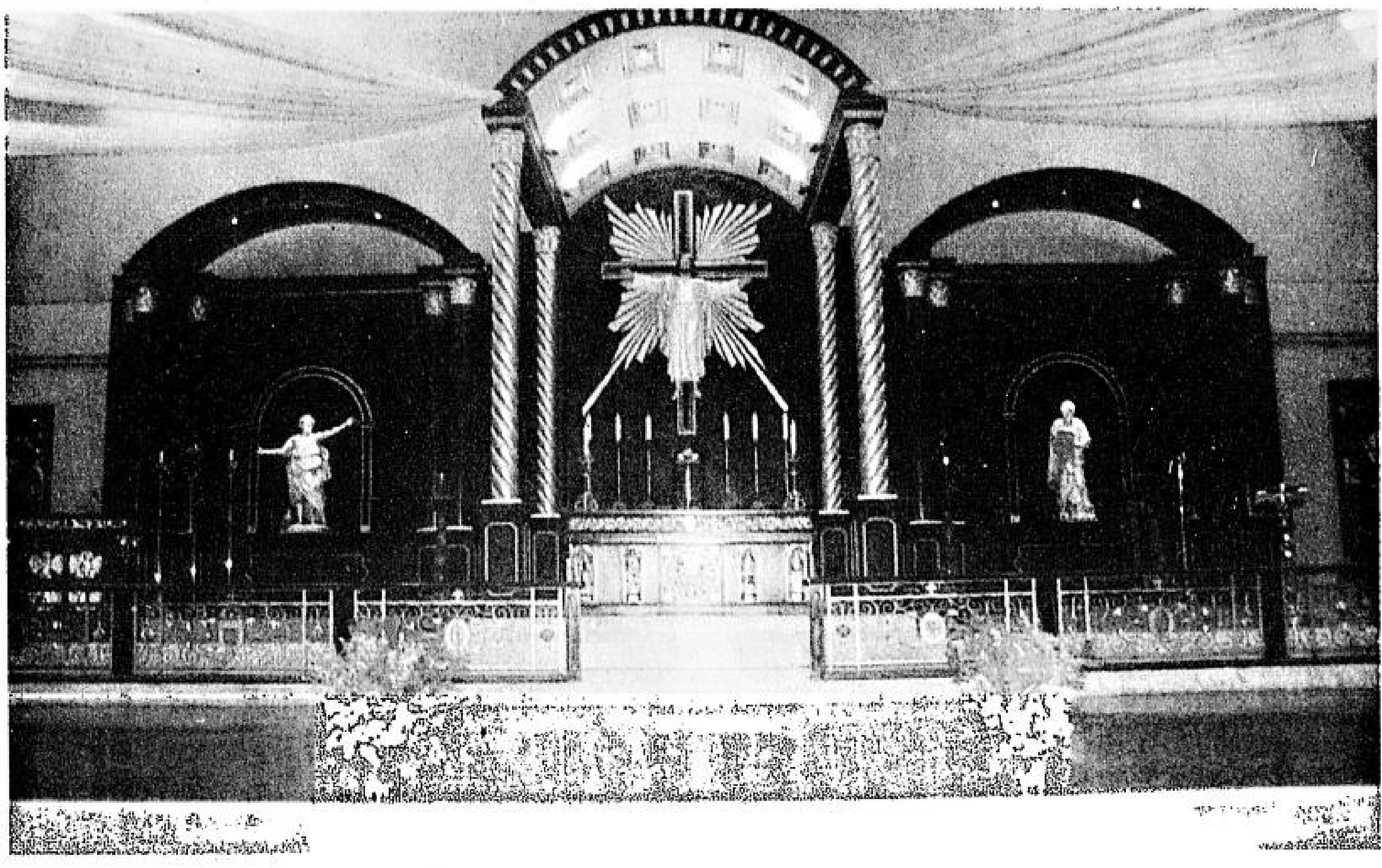

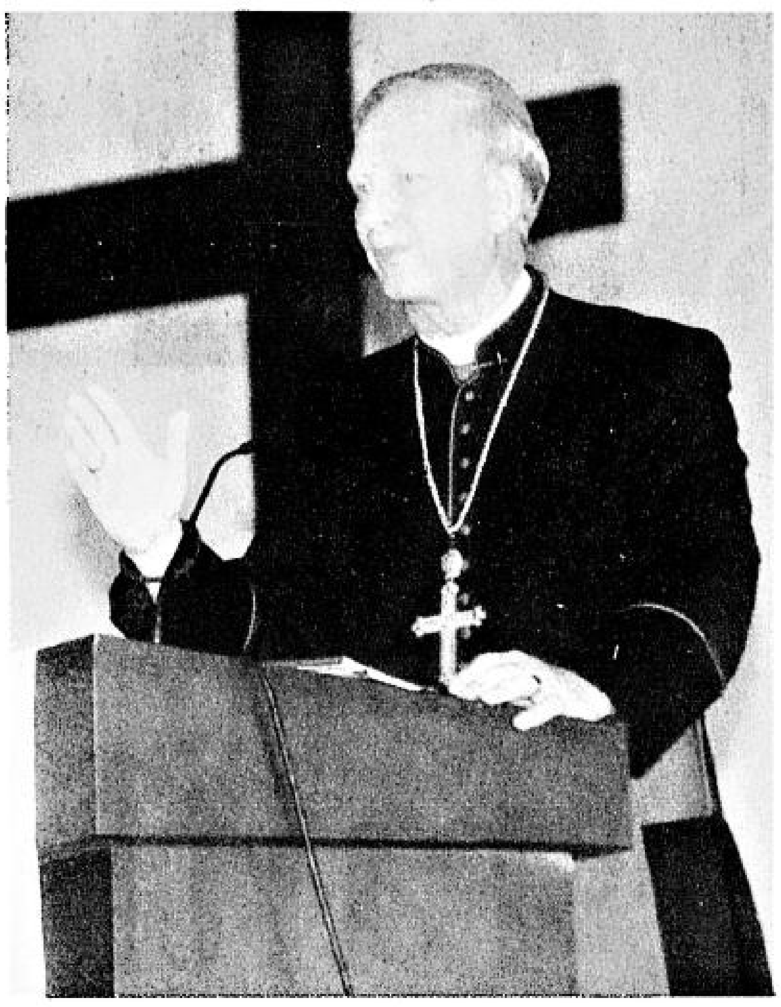

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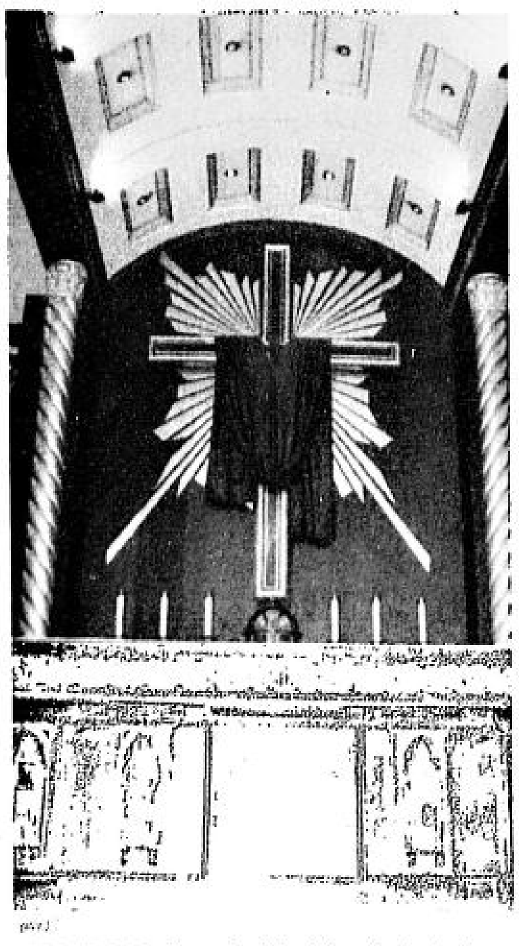

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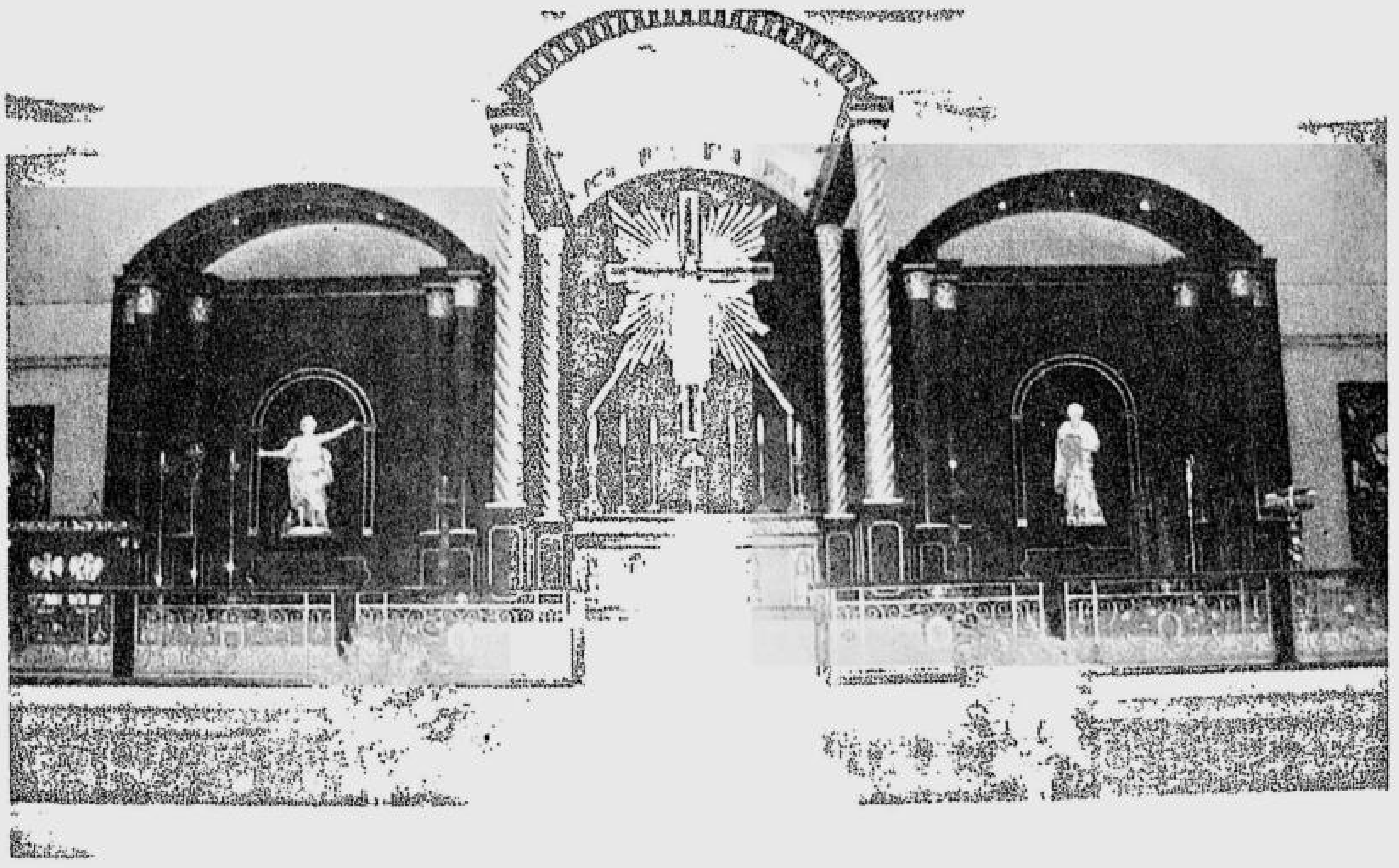

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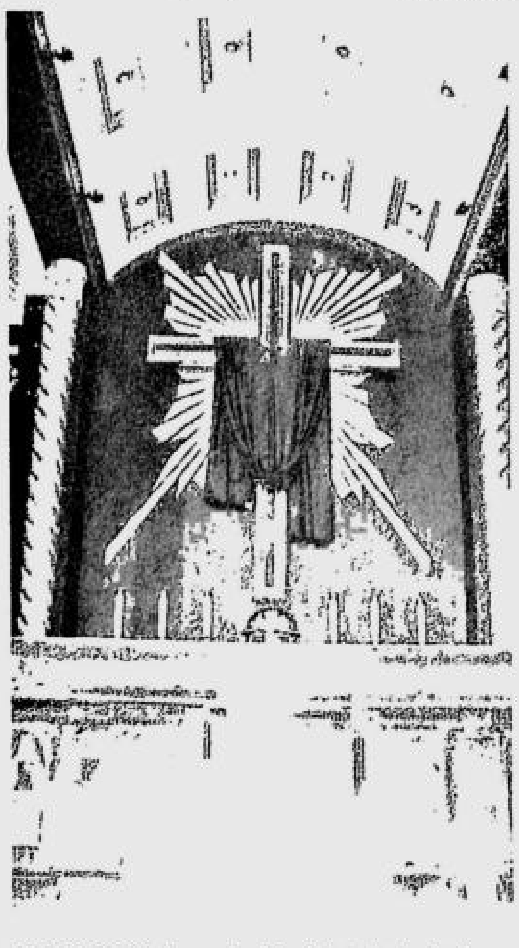

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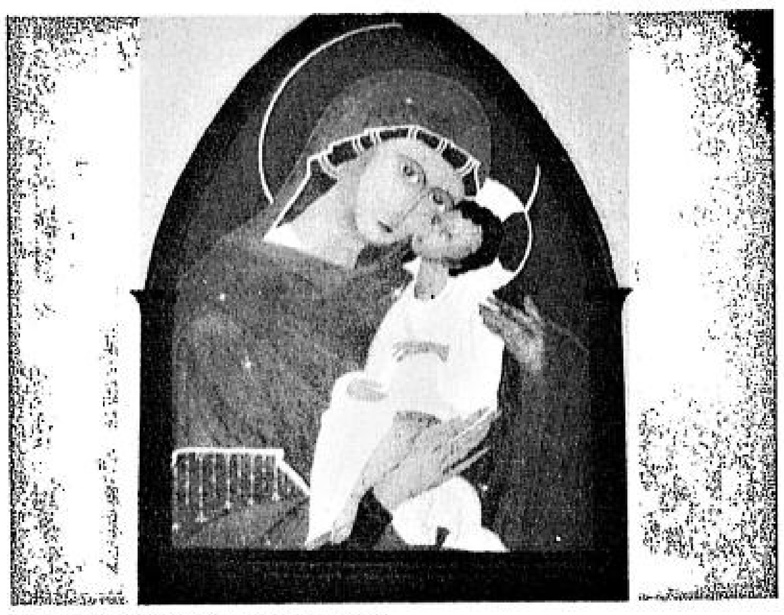
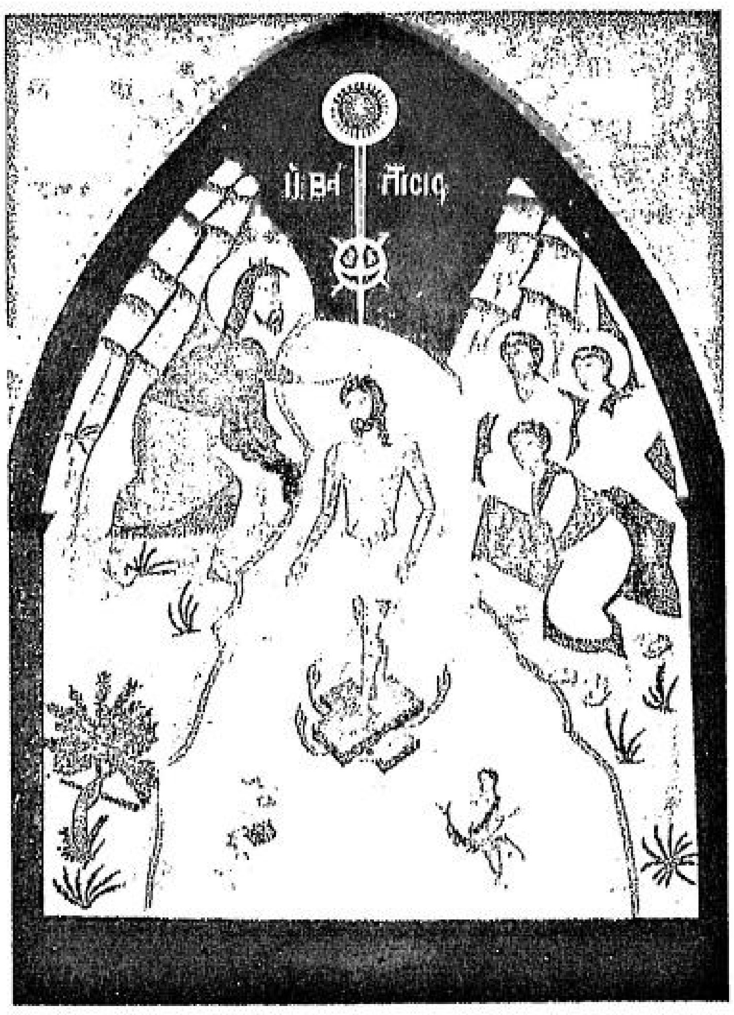
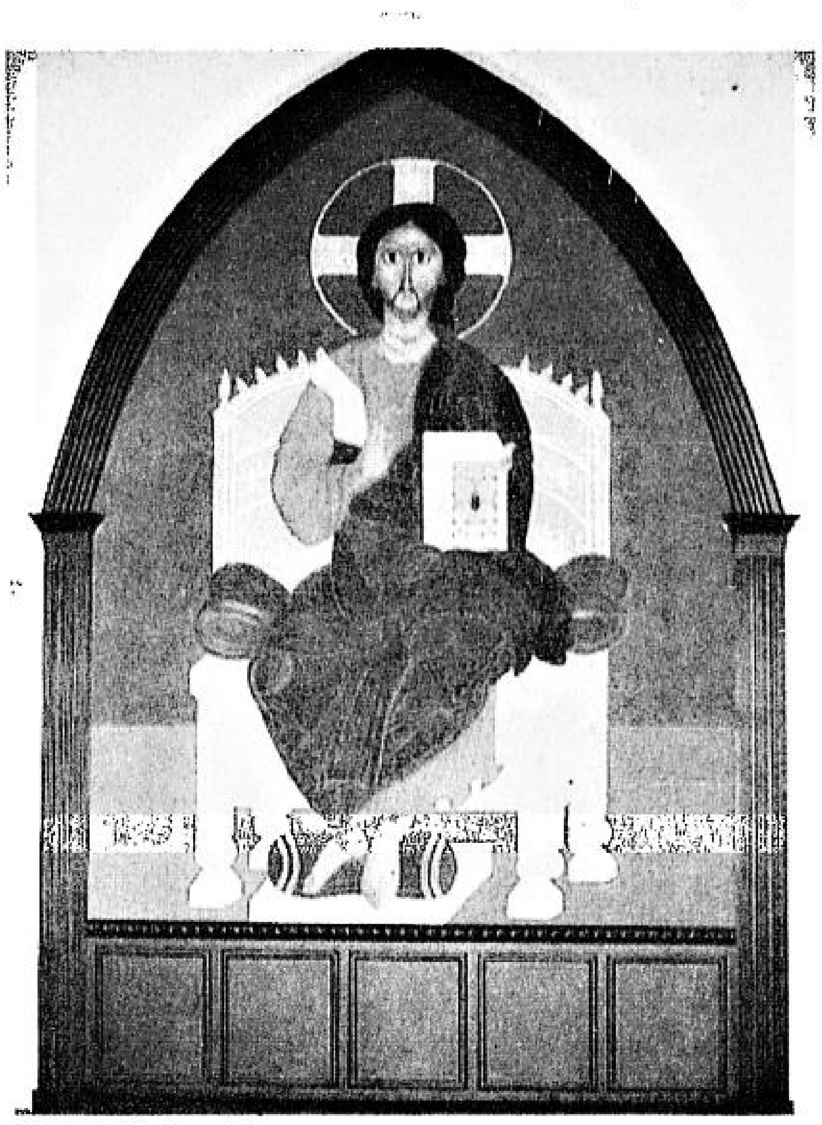


"THEOTOKOS (Mother of God)"



"BAPTISM of Our Savior," an emblematic Eastern Orthodox work of art that coexists with Catholic statuary in the Cathedral of the King



"CHRIST Enthroned"

Mission: reunify the faith

From page G1

says Hines. Thus, there is dance and mime in the Mass—but always within the confines of liturgy, he says.

"Dance and mime are actually very ancient elements of worship. You go back to Genesis in the Bible, where there's a lot of pageantry involved in worshipping God. So we have more upbeat melodies and movements... It's somehow like El Shaddai."

East literally meets West in ICCEC. The cavernous Cathedral of the King houses both authentic Russian and Greek icons and the more traditional Catholic statuary. On the walls are towering painted replicas of emblematic Orthodox images, like the "Theotokos (Mother of God)" and "Christ Enthroned."

"We also take our Lenten spirit from the Orthodox church," says Hines. "Among Catholics, Lent is more somber. But we see it more as springtime, when we bring out the joy of freedom."

Still, the statues are covered with violet cloth during the season—a distinctly Catholic touch.

Like the Eastern rites, ICCEC's Holy Mass uses leavened bread, and is presided over by a minister who may be married. Celibacy is not a requirement for priesthood in this church.

"In fact, we prefer that they're already married before they're ordained," says Bishop Gene Lilly, who has tended to the Southern flock from his Davao base since 1978. "How do they handle their own household? We can see their character from their family life."

Traditions

One might think ICCEC's emphasis on ornate ceremony is indicative of a church that's more concerned with form than with substance. But the pageantry and splendor of the ceremonies are not empty gestures, says Hines. They are a celebration of the venerable heritage of the faith.

"Tradition is stability and constancy. While we are flexible in using the Roman, Orthodox or Anglican rites, we always emphasize the beauty of the ceremony, which brings people in. It's like God being brought down to the people. The Church should give them that beauty, that sense of timelessness, as an anchor of faith in a fast-paced world."

Does Rome recognize ICCEC?

"The Vatican has recognized what we are doing as valid," says Hines. "That doesn't mean they now accept us, but there's an ongoing dialogue, and a relationship is being built."

The dialogue with Rome has been ongoing for three years now, and significant exchanges have occurred between the local Catholic church and ICCEC. Bishop Bacani has been a guest, and Hines has lectured in a number of Catholic seminaries.

"The Pope has done a lot to heal the wounds of division, to bring East and West together," says Hines. "He is a great healer."

Manila convocation

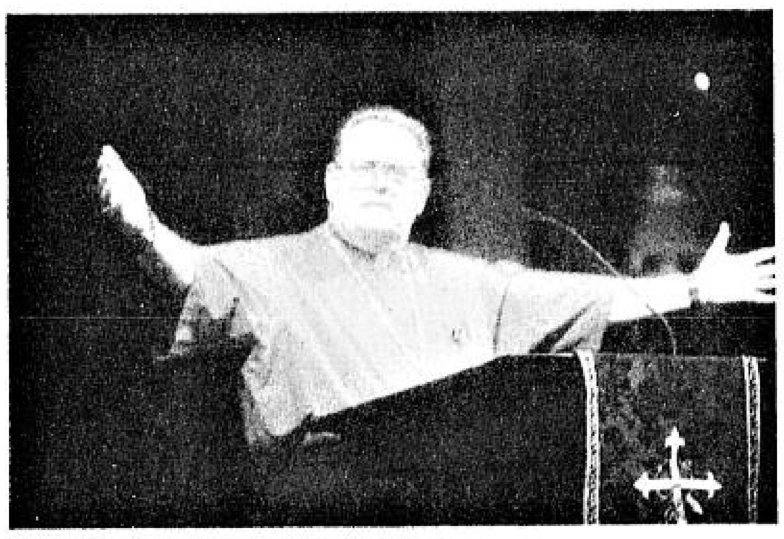
On June 26-July 3, an international convocation in Manila will gather around 3,000 ICCEC members from all over the world for a week of sharing and celebration. It's the church's first international convocation, and the Philippines was chosen because "the church here is large and active," says Lilly.

It is also a country these transplanted men of God have come to love deeply.

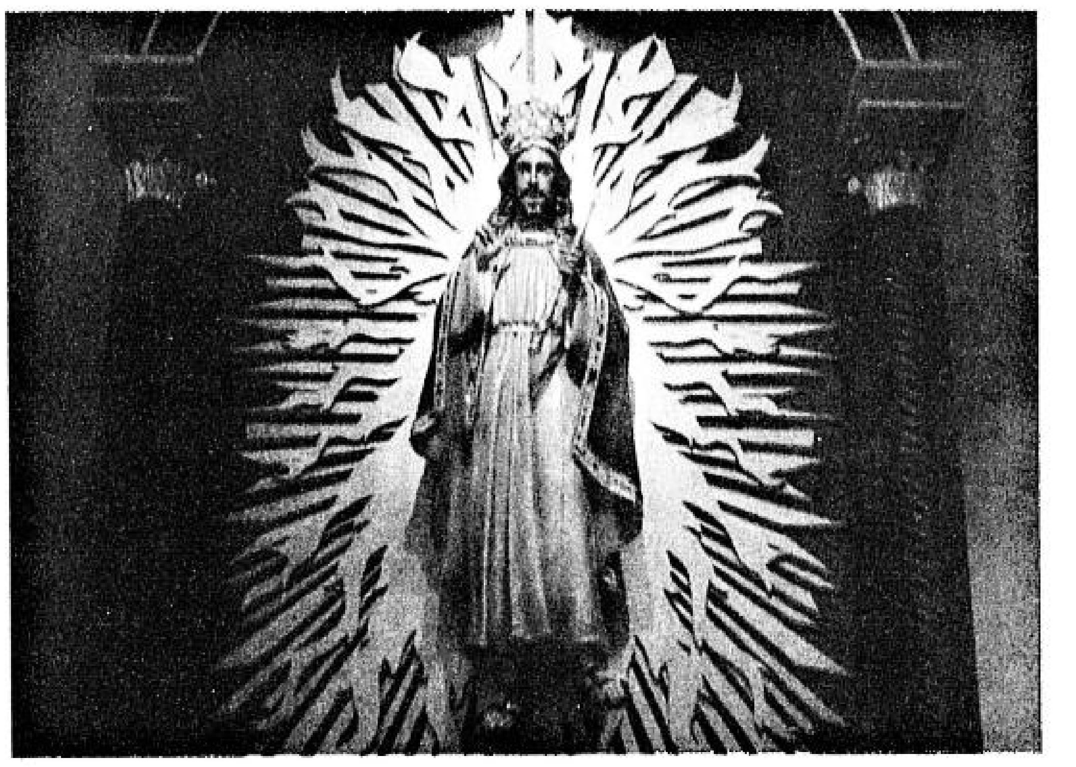
"We pray for the country all the time," says Hines, who has lived here for 30 years. "The Philippines has always been called the only Christian nation in Asia, but Christianity is not a religion, but a way of life. God is the substance of our lives, and we're here to change the hearts of people one heart at a time. By coming together, we can turn things around."

Call 7477283 or 0917-8390924 for details about the ICCEC International Convocation.

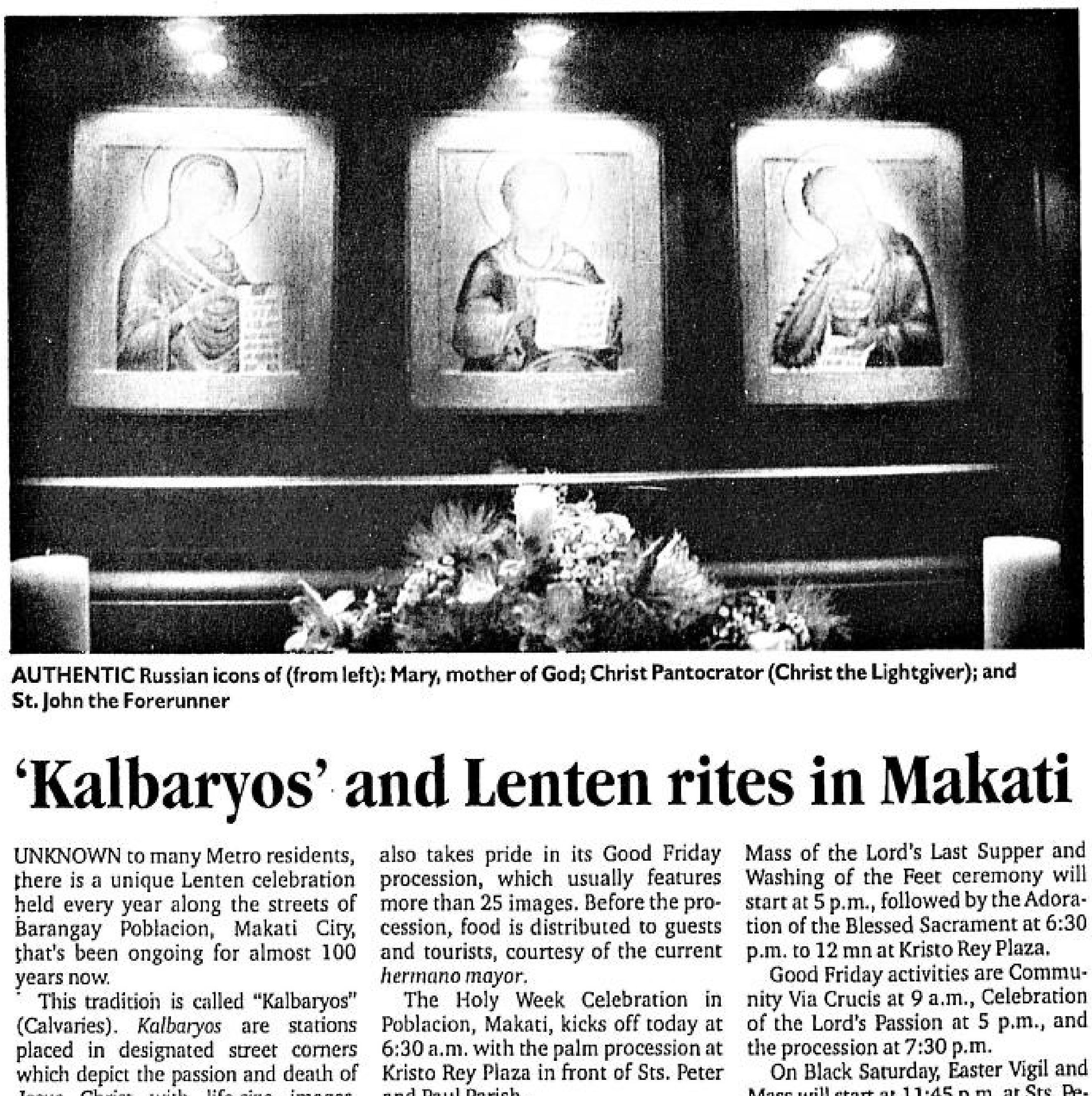
E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph



BISHOP Gene Lilly



EAST MEETS WEST. Two images of Christ the King: (top) the traditional Roman Catholic figure, and (right) an Eastern Orthodox-Russian rendition



AUTHENTIC Russian icons of (from left): Mary, mother of God; Christ Pantocrator (Christ the Lightgiver); and St. John the Forerunner

'Kalbaryos' and Lenten rites in Makati

UNKNOWN to many Metro residents, there is a unique Lenten celebration held every year along the streets of Barangay Poblacion, Makati City, that's been ongoing for almost 100 years now.

This tradition is called "Kalbaryos" (Calvaries). *Kalbaryos* are stations placed in designated street corners which depict the passion and death of Jesus Christ with life-size images. These stations are uniquely decorated and constructed by several organizations within the area as their yearly "*panata.*"

This year, around 37 *kalbaryos* have been constructed, a long way from the original seven stations made after World War II.

Aside from "Kalbaryos," Poblacion also takes pride in its Good Friday procession, which usually features more than 25 images. Before the procession, food is distributed to guests and tourists, courtesy of the current *hermano mayor.*

The Holy Week Celebration in Poblacion, Makati, kicks off today at 6:30 a.m. with the palm procession at Kristo Rey Plaza in front of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish.

This will be followed by a Mass at 8 a.m., and a Kumpisalang Bayan on Holy Monday and Tuesday at 7:30-10 p.m.

Community Masses on Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday will be at 7 a.m. The Crucifix procession will be on Holy Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

On Holy Thursday, the evening Mass of the Lord's Last Supper and Washing of the Feet ceremony will start at 5 p.m., followed by the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 6:30 p.m. to 12 mn at Kristo Rey Plaza.

Good Friday activities are Community Via Crucis at 9 a.m., Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 5 p.m., and the procession at 7:30 p.m.

On Black Saturday, Easter Vigil and Mass will start at 11:45 p.m. at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish. This will be followed by the traditional Easter Salubong at 1:30 a.m. in front of the Poblacion's Sports Complex along JP Rizal Avenue.

This year's *hermanos mayores* are engineer Emmanuel and Esther Tagunicar. The parish priest of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish is Msgr. Antonio B. Unson.

Music to celebrate Easter renewal

AN EFFECTIVE way to deepen our prayer and meditation time during the coming Easter is to use appropriate music to enhance the experience.

There are soundtracks especially created to celebrate the hope and renewal that Easter brings. From veteran writers and arrangers Greg Nelson and David Hamilton come the Easter musicale "My Redeemer Lives."

Symphonic in style with a contemporary flair, "My Redeemer Lives" contains fresh arrangements of favorite hymns woven together with classic contemporary Christian songs.

Another good choice is Claire Cloninger and Robert Sterling's "Who Do You Say I Am?", which was inspired by the question Christ spoke to Peter 2,000 years ago.

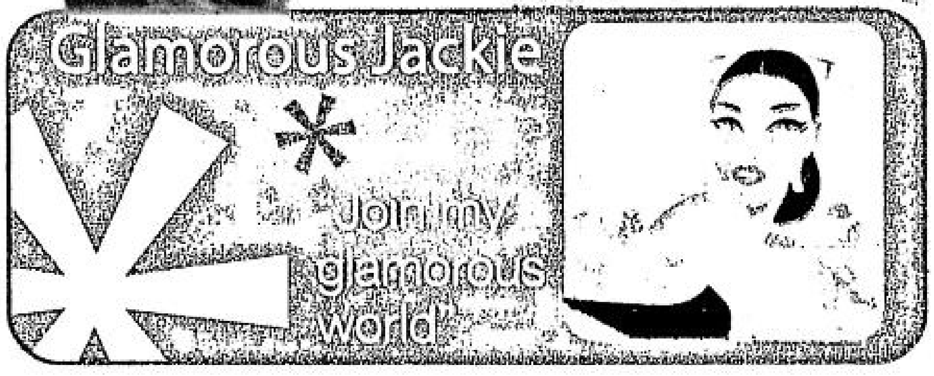
Through lyrics, narration and monologue, this musicale takes us back to Jesus' days and shares with us the experience of knowing who Jesus really is.

These and many more are available from Praise Incorporated. From the swinging tune of Veggie Tales soundtrack for children, the rap-rock fusion of DC Talk, to the moving ballads of Steven Curtis Chapman and the popular praise and worship styles of Don Moen, Praise Incorporated offers a vast catalog of music for the soul.

Its retail arm, the House of Praise, is the country's leading distributor of international and locally produced quality Christian CDs, cassettes, videos and other products. It is located in all major malls. Call 9205291 local 139 or visit www.praise.com.ph

PARTY ONe!

Addict Mobile's 1st Anniversary party!



addict

Addict Mobile is turning one year young with the biggest bash of the summer! None other than the beautiful island of Boracay, filled with bootilicious bodies of my glamorous pals, will serve as the vivacious venue! Of course, yours truly will be parading my new slinky bikini collection, looking marvelous as I make my entrance from party after party! Oooh! My newly pedicured toes can already feel the sand scorching!

Summer is not the only hot thing to hit the beach this summer! Of course there is me! Addict Mobile is going to heat up Boracay to the party boiling point! Addict Mobile will be having the slinkiest sports around with some wild wakeboarding, some oh so jiggly volleyball, and the ultimately freaky ultimate frisbee! All this fun in the sun, and the day has just begun! Join me as I slinkily sip cocktails on the daily Chill Out Sunset at Club House Parao. Or I may just chill my oh so bronzed body at Waling Waling with Phil Mison and Lenny Ibizarre. This will just be the cool down for the day, and the warm up for the night, as Addict Mobile turns the on the glamorous lights! Addict Mobile cranks Hey Jude nightly with, among other glitzy foxes, Steve Mills, DJ Aryan, DJ Ace, and Slinky World Class 2004 featuring Ken Ishii, Lenny Ibizarre and TC of BIGFISH! My Mon Maramba and DJs from Mitu's Tribe and Pepo Drip will be heating up Boracay Terraces with the oh so saucy Latin House Party, Nocturnal Invasion! My booty is sent to party quivers with the thought! Addict Mobile subscribers get their name at the door for free entrance by sending texting "SLINKY" to 299. SMART subscribers text "SLINKY COMBO" to 299 for their free entrance.

In true glamorous fashion, Addict Mobile subscribers will slink across the shaking floor with free drinks, and get behind the velvet ropes with moi in the VIP areas. Still not hooked on Addict Mobile's hippest and chicest content? Why? The hottie hosts of Addict Mobile will be glad to lead you down the red and black carpet! Time for you to become a glamorous partyphile, only with Addict Mobile!

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Young women are formally introduced to society

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

THE JOHANN Strauss Society, Inc. staged its third debutantes' ball at Le Pavilion Metropolitan Park on Roxas Boulevard. Overall chair **Letty C. Syquia** said proceeds would go to hospice care of the Alay Kapwa Kilusang Pangkalusugan (Akap) for terminally ill cancer patients.

Eight young women, aged 16 to 22, were introduced to an audience composed of members of the diplomatic corps, business and social luminaries.

Austrian conductor **Ernest Hoetzl** returned to Manila to conduct the Philharmonic with **Nolyn Cabahug** and soprano **Deeda Barretto**. Austrian choreographer **Sausanne Jankula** choreographed the traditional debutante's waltz. Others in the organizing committee were **Helmut Gaisberger** and **David Thomas** of the Mandarin Oriental, **Melly Ablaza, Alice Guerrero, Fortune Ledesma, Marieta Holmgren, Helen Ong** and **Naty Pappas.**

The surprise of the evening was the Rigodon de Honor by members of the diplomatic corps like Austrian Ambassador **Christian** and **Irmgard Krepela,** United Kingdom Ambassador **Paul** and **Carolyn Dimond,** Sri Lankan Ambassador and Mme. **Ariya Rekawa,** European Union Ambassador **Jan** and **Agnes De Kok,** Argentine Ambassador **Mario** and **Sylvie Schuff,** and the Johann Strauss Society.

Beautiful necklaces

The Philippine-Italian Association (Pia), together with the Tantoco-Rustia Foundation, presented at the lobby of Greenbelt 3 an eye-opener of a show, the 101 Most Beautiful Necklaces designed by 16 master Venetian craftsmen, that had Manila's fashionistas reaching for their checkbooks. An added attraction for buyers was the grand lottery. Prize was a gorgeous necklace, Prince of Venice, worth P100,000. Part of the proceeds will go to civic projects of the Pia.

The exhibit was formally opened by Italian Ambassador **Umberto Colesanti,** Ambassador **Bienvenido Tantoco,** Makati Representative **Teodoro** and **Louie Locsin,** and **Baby Arenas,** excited over her upcoming **Andrea Bocelli** gala.

Elegant welcome dinner

Welcoming newly arrived Canadian Ambassador **Peter Sutherland** and his wife, **Jo-lynne,** were Monaco consul **Fortune Ledesma** and good friend **Agnes Hui Bon Hua** of Vice President **Teofisto Guingona's** office. The small, intimate but elegant dinner was catered by **Milly Reyes** of The Plaza. It was held at Essensa in Fort Bonifacio.

Among the guests were Dutch Ambassador and Mme. **Robert Vornis,** Italian Ambassador Umberto and **Clara Colesanti,** Vice President Teofisto Guingona, just arrived **Max Soliven** and his *preciosa,* **Cynthia Carreon** of the Department of Tourism with **Jerry Rollins,** Ambassador **Frank** and **Cor Ebdalin, Babes Romualdez, Millet** and **Robert Mananquil,** Baby Arenas and **Joe Guingona.**

Women's Day

The National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines, headed by Dr. **Concordia M. Pascual,** and the Metro Manila Council of Women, headed by **Narda Camacho,** marked International Women's Day at the Manila Hotel with women Cabinet secretaries and ambassadors to the Philippines.

Finance Secretary **Juanita Amatong,** Foreign Affairs Secretary **Delia Albert,** Budget

YOUNG/H4

DEBUTANTES Katrina Rigor, Jonina Tanchanco, Katrina Sheena Marie Que, Marie Josephine Rigor, Dorothy How, Karl Posha Tanjutco, Karen Michelle Bitanga and Ma. Cristina Rigor; (seated) opera artist Deeda Barretto, advisers Austrian Ambassador Christian Krepela and Irmgard Krepela, and opera artist Nolyn Cabahug

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

BRITISH Ambassador Paul and Carolyn Dimond

CANADIAN Ambassador Peter Sutherland

EU Ambassador Jan and Agnes de Kok

CONDUCTOR Ernest Hoetzl

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LOGO BEACHVIEW
LOGO 4BIRDS
LOGO BULAKLAK2
LOGO JESUS
LOGO VYROSE
LOGO TEDDYLUV
LOGO TRIBAL2
LOGO BLIPS

Song title	Artist/Composer	Mono	Poly New!	Song title	Artist/Composer	Mono	Poly New!
I've Got Sunshine	*A1*	**TONE IVEGOTSUN**	**POLY IVEGOTSUN**	Sunrise	*Simply Red*	**TONE SUNRISE**	**POLY SUNRISE**
Volare	*Gypsy Kings*	**TONE VOLARE**	**POLY VOLARE**	Catch The Sun	*Doves*	**TONE CATCHSUN**	**POLY CATCHSUN**
Oye Como Va	*Gypsy Kings*	**TONE OYECOMOVA**	**POLY OYECOMOVA**	Hot In The City	*Billy Idol*	**TONE HOTCITY**	**POLY HOTCITY**
Bem Bem Maria	*Gypsy Kings*	**TONE BEMBEM**	**POLY BEMBEM**	Girls Just Wanna Have Fun	*Cyndi Lauper*	**TONE GRLJST**	**POLY GRLJST**
Hawaii Five-O	*Ventures*	**TONE HAWAII**	**POLY HAWAII**	Smooth	*Santana*	**TONE SMOOTHSAN**	**POLY SMOOTHSAN**
Buffalo Soldier	*Bob Marley*	**TONE BUFFALO**	**POLY BUFFALO**	Maria Maria	*Santana*	**TONE MARIA**	**POLY MARIA**
Daytripper	*Beatles*	**TONE DAYTRIP**	**POLY DAYTRIP**	Vengabus	*Venga Boys*	**TONE VENGABUS**	**POLY VENGABUS**
Orinocoflow	*Enya*	**TONE ORINOCO**	**POLY ORINOCO**	Rock The Boat	*Aaliyah*	**TONE ROCKTHE**	**POLY ROCKTHE**
Cruel Summer	*Bananarama*	**TONE CRUEL**	**POLY CRUEL**	Where Is The Love	*Black Eyed Peas*	**TONE WERISLUV**	**POLY WERISLUV**
Senorita	*Justin Timberlake*	**TONE SENOR**	**POLY SENOR**	Ignition	*R. Kelly*	**TONE IGNI**	**POLY IGNI**

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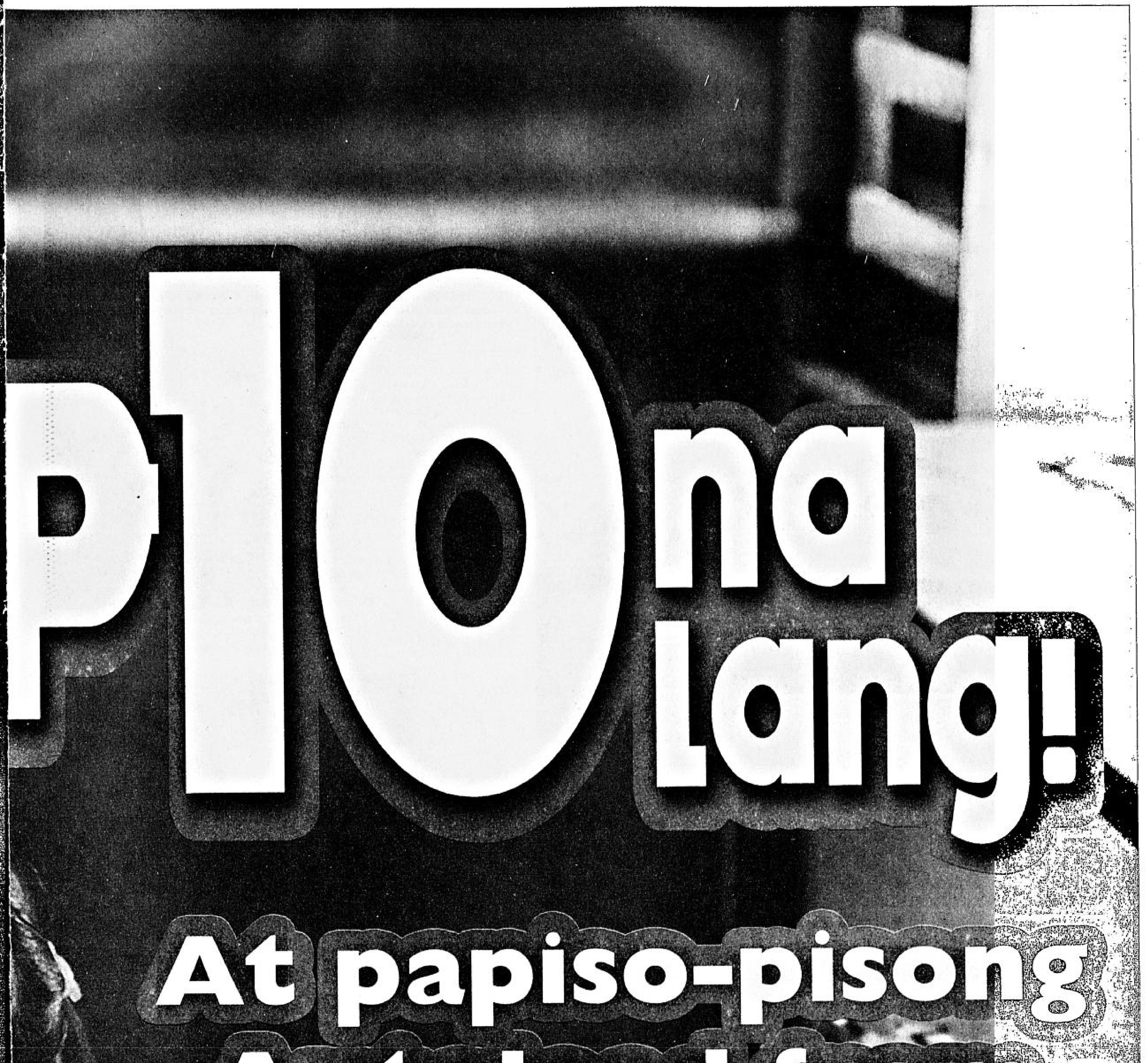
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Young women are formally introduced to society

THE SINGING Cabinet ladies: Environment Secretary Bebet Gozun, Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas, Finance Secretary Nits Amatong, Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert and Budget Secretary Emy Boncodin

From page H1

Secretary **Emilia Boncodin**, Environment Secretary **Elizia Gozun** and Labor Secretary **Patricia Sto. Tomas** serenaded the audience with "Minamahal Kita."

Thai Ambassador **Busba Bunnag** and Brunei Ambassador **Munah Dato Elias** sang "Saan Ka Man Naroroon."

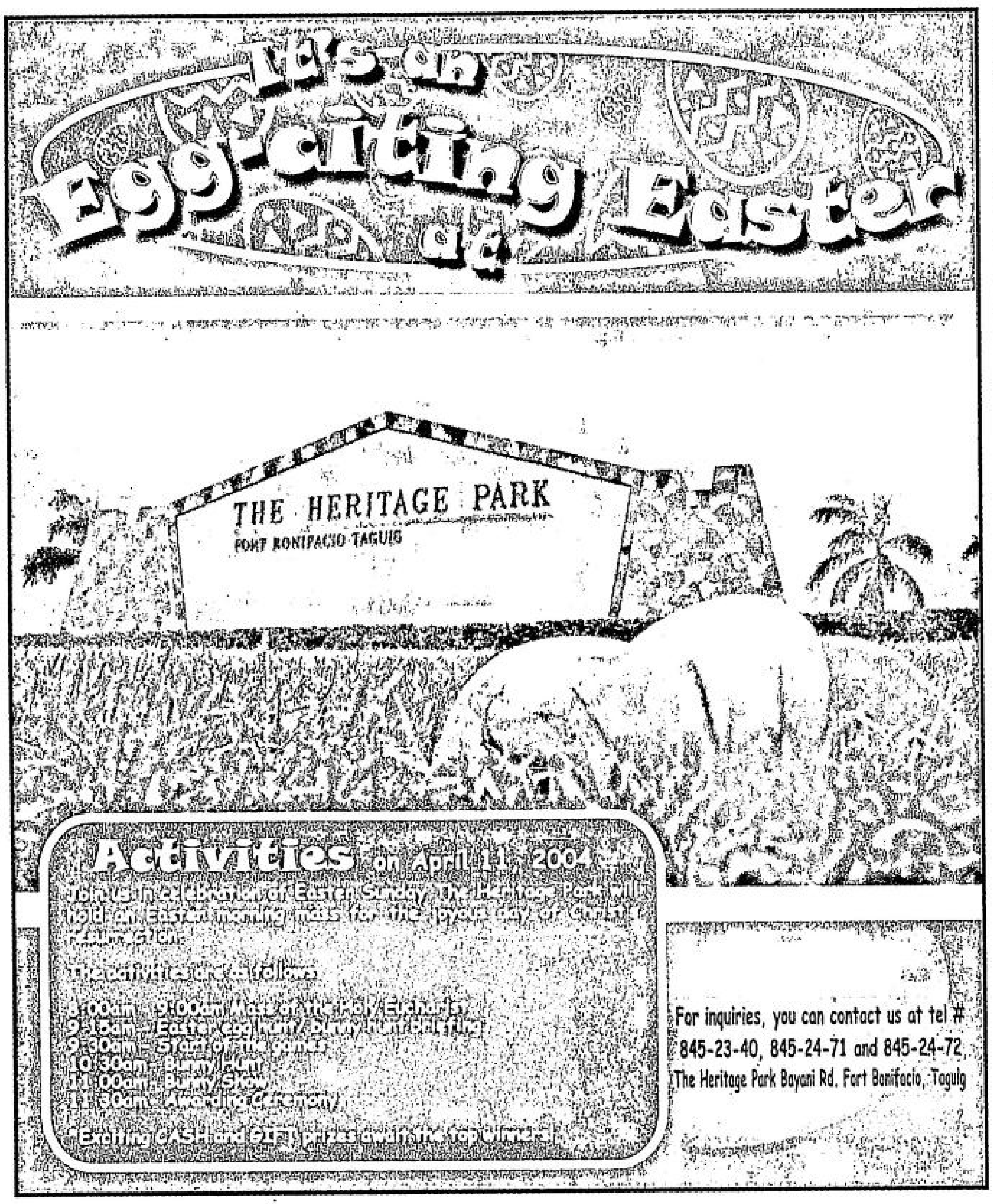
Another promising singer was **Deborah Landey**, coordinator of the United Nations System Philippines who, together with **Carrie Bautista, Karla Santos, Chit Gohu, Nori Ongsiako, Ophie Bakker, Evic Costa** and **Helen Ong** did "Maalaala mo Kaya."

Among the guests were Ambassador **Kheng Hua Lim** of Singapore; Ambassador **Lise Favre** of Switzerland; **Johanna Montero**, wife of the new Chilean Ambassador; **Folu Kkuku** of Nigeria and **Joan Gamiandu** of Papua New Guinea; Ambassador **Anita Suta** of Palau; **Nilufar Zaman** of Bangladesh; **Jo-lynne Sutherland** of Canada; and **Silvia Schuff** of Argentina.

ITALIAN Ambassador Umberto Colesanti with Giorgio Vaccari of The House of Vaccari, which turns glass beads into jewelry

AGNES Huibonhoa, Robert Mananquil, VP Teofisto Guingona, Consuls Rene and Fortune Ledesma

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON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When innocents come marching into a health resort

You can enjoy
a calm and calming
Lenten retreat
even if you're
with the kids
at The Farm
at San Benito, Lipa

WHEN the (inno)saints go marching in, the once staid health resort comes alive with giggles and laughter.

Text and photos by Lynett A. Villariba

WONDERING how to channel the children's energy during the quiet of the Lenten season?

If you have been mulling over that dream retreat to calm and collect all the levels of mind, body and spirit, but could not get to align it with your kids' physically active life, you can solve the riddle April 5 to 11 at The Farm at San Benito health resort in Lipa, Batangas.

Keeping kids busy

While parents take to their spa and wellness programs, a line-up of activities will keep children creatively busy.

Instructors will conduct "art attack" workshops, fun painting and yoga-for-kids classes. Kids will also enjoy interacting with nature through gardening, seed planting and sprouting. They will also learn to whip up their own food.

For young, active bodies, there will be plenty of swimming in kid-friendly pools. They will also enjoy traditional Filipino games, horseback riding and nature trail walks. All of this will be capped by storytelling by the bonfire and a pajama party in the evening and a grand Easter egg hunt on Sunday.

An array of healthy delicious dishes, including kiddie meals fresh from natural organic sources that are both delicious and nutritious, will be available in set meals or ala carte at the restaurant.

What's more, children also get to join their parents in a workshop on emotional intelligence and learn "conscious walking" exercises.

Your family's stay is a sensuous experience as you create your own path to wellness. Together, kids learn to see the eloquence of nature's beauty, to smell the flowers and the fragrances of life, and taste the food that is a gift of nature, its healing colors, texture and vibrant energy.

The promenade through the nine-hectare grounds offers a panoramic mountain vista, flowing waters, garden walks leading to solitary meditation nooks or cozy gazebos for group bonding. You can curl up to a good book at the library amid a tranquil pool or take a dip in the warmed

WHEN/14

YOUNG explorers take the road less traveled: a nature trail to look for butterflies and dragonflies.

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Q: I want to put art in my bathroom. What materials should I go for?
A: Crescent House Gallery owner Karina Balagot suggests you frame your art with wood. With its ability to expand & contract, wood can adjust to unstable bathroom conditions. Stay away from rust-prone metal. Any work in oil or acrylic, as long as it's executed on fabric, should be okay.
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SHOPPER
Q: I have a couple leather shoes, belts and bags that are beginning to look dull. How do I make them look shiny & brand new again?
A: First, dust them with soft, lint-free cloth and apply patent leather cream. Let the solution sit and dry for a few minutes.
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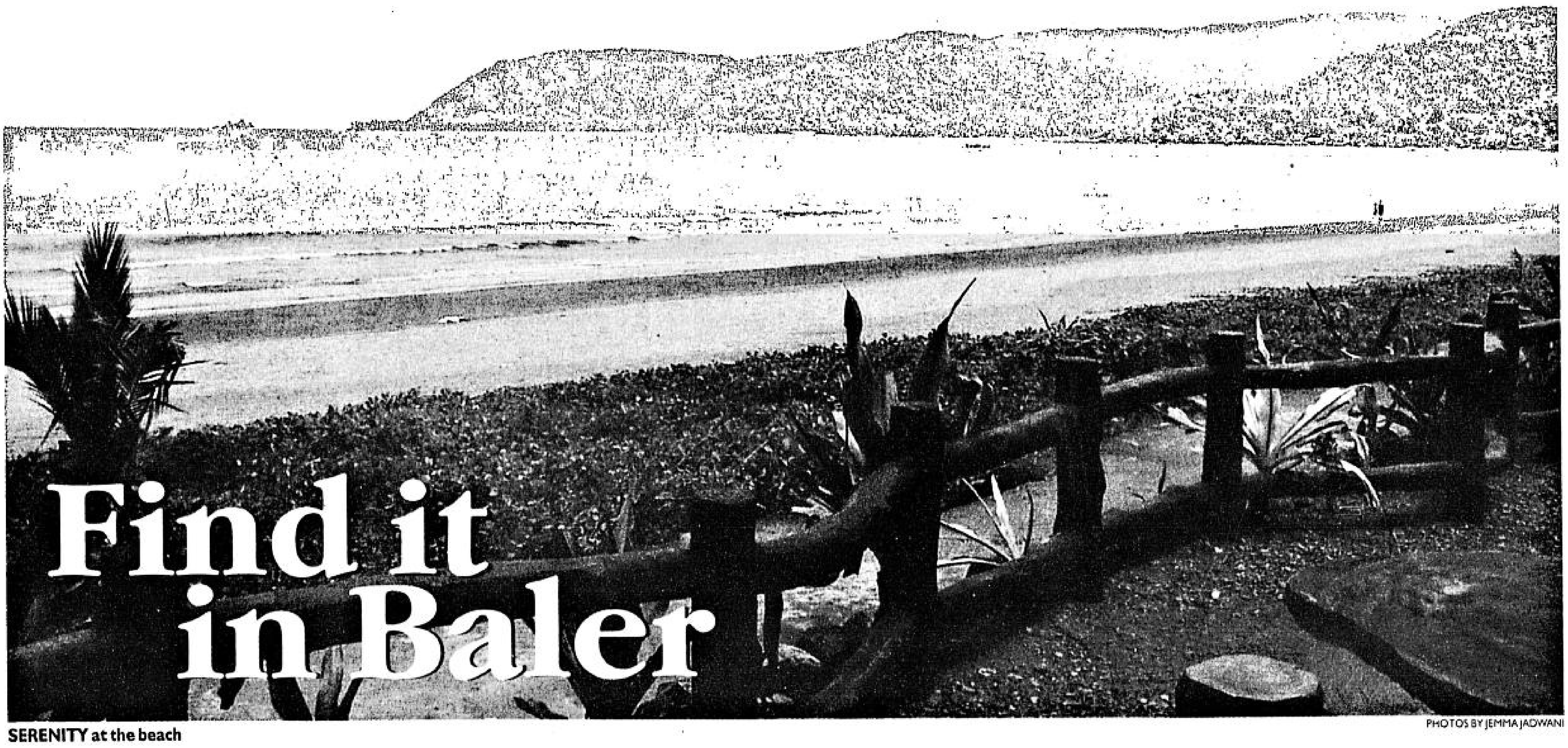
TRAVEL

Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**



Find it in Baler

SERENITY at the beach

PHOTOS BY JEMMA JADWANI

By Vicky S. Mendoza
Contributor

THIS sleepy seaside town lies on the eastern coast of Aurora, a province that straddles the Sierra Madre mountain range toward the north and touches Quezon province on its southern tip.

It remains sleepy because of the difficulty of getting there. The route from Manila runs smoothly through the provinces of Bulacan and Nueva Ecija until it reaches the foot of the Sierra Madre. From there, it crawls through more than 40 kilometers of rough road. (A trip by car takes about six hours; a bus ride can take up to eight hours because of the stops.) The purists among nature lovers prefer it this way, to keep the crowds at bay.

The difficulty in traversing the dirt road plays a big part in keeping Baler pristine, a thriving ecosystem where plant and animal life survives and thrives.

On the way passing through Nueva Ecija, I can see the trees dotting the hills in the countryside, a sprinkling of mangoes, acacias, narras, and other breeds.

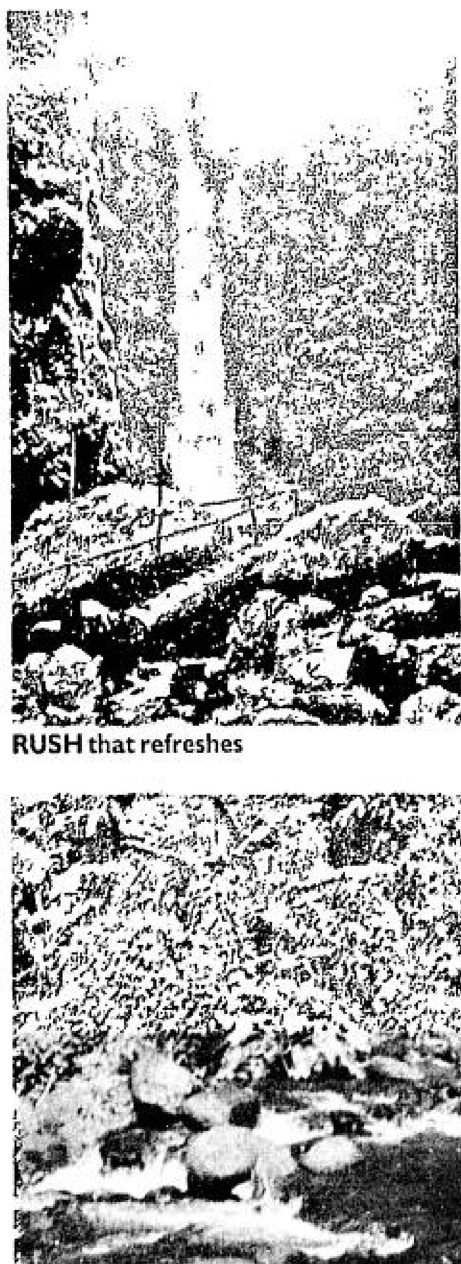
But once the border of Aurora is breached, at the start of the dirt road up the Sierra Madre, the flora becomes thick foliage of deep green. The trees are much taller, of a wider variety, appropriately spaced, yet in a wild arrangement. The temperature drops a couple of degrees, and the air becomes a fragrant breeze.

This is one of the last remaining (primary growth) rainforests in the country, and only one of three places where Philippine eagles can be found (the other two are Leyte, and certain portions of Mindanao).

An environmentalist once told me that a rainforest is called such because, literally, it rains inside one, thanks to the thick moisture within and the abundant supply of freshwater. With many trees, much of the rainwater is stored underground, assuring the inhabitants of a constant supply.

In contrast to Manila, Baler has not known want of water. Simply drive a pipe into the ground, and you will get an endless flow.

Entering the Baler town proper is like going into a time warp. There are no tall buildings, no malls, no fast-food joints. There is one outdated gas station, and an old Landbank branch without an ATM machine.

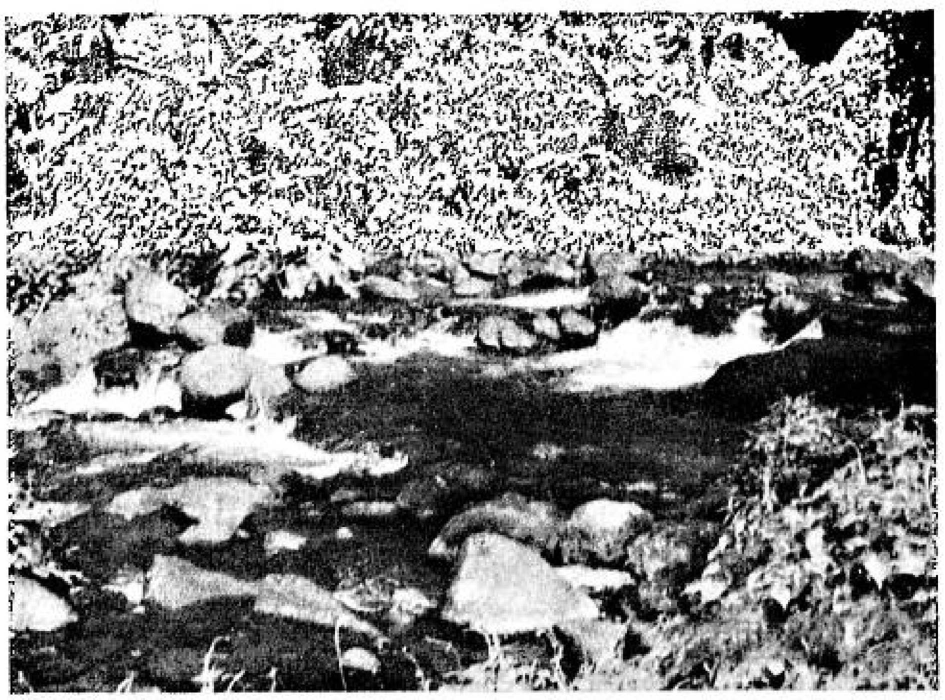


RUSH that refreshes

There is a small makeshift market by the roadside that comes to life in the afternoons, selling fresh seafood and vegetables. Shrimps, mussels, crabs and all types of fish sell for a bargain. Unique to the place is a fern called *pako*. Mix it with *gata* (coconut extract) and a bit of fish, and you are likely to forget your name at first taste. Another local delicacy is the *suman* (sticky rice). It comes in red and white varieties, and is so famous they even have a *suman* festival in the summer.

I reach the shore, and the break from reality becomes complete: It is not only a different time but a different world entirely. The shore stretches far and wide on both sides. To the right, it curves gracefully into hilly terrain, lush with its original foliage. To the left, it seems to go on forever, until low-lying clouds hide it from view.

On Sabang beach, the surf is friendly and manageable, about three feet high on most days. One can ride the waves while swimming, or do some beginner's surfing.



GREEN oasis

Back on the road, we drive for five minutes northward to Barangay Reserva. Here lies a strip of beach (now owned by Jukka Holopainen, the former executive director of the environmental non-government organization that I work for) embraced by the Aguang River to the right, and facing the famed Charlie's Point.

It is where the surfing scenes of the cult classic "Apocalypse Now" were filmed. Charlie's Point is a break in the surf where waves can reach up to eight feet high, owing to the converging currents of the river and the sea.

In the Marlon Brando movie, the American GI's code-name for the Vietcong is "Charlie." And since "Charlie don't surf" (and, therefore, have no need for this beautiful beach strip), they bomb the whole village with napalm. (Remember the line, "I just love the smell of napalm in the morning"?)

Late in the afternoon, I take out the kayak and ride up the river, which leads to a fork. Taking the left path, I spot a graceful purple heron and a white long-limbed egret from afar. The birds fly away as I draw near, proof that the place remains mainly uninhabited for them to visit it.

As twilight falls, the left bank, which eventually leads to the sea, begins to fill with fireflies, illuminating the trees with a brilliant veil.

Back at Jukka's place, nighttime is pure delight for the nature lover. There is no electricity in the entire Barangay Reserva, and candlelight is all that separates us from total darkness. But, of course, there is also moonlight.

Strolling toward the shore, we listen to the sound of the waves and view the horizon washed in dreamy moonlight. It is a spiritual experience that is hard to describe: a feeling of leaving everything earthly behind.

At daybreak we are back on the road toward the Ditumabo Falls. The 45-minute trek to one of the falls is an experience in itself.

We cross narrow makeshift bridges, climb up steep stairs carved out of tree trunks, and take dips in the occasional crystal-clear pools along the way. It is as if the path were an ongoing preview of the main feature, called "Mother Falls," raising the anticipation minute by minute.

RUSTIC road

We hear the sound of gushing water from about 100 meters away, and my breath becomes a mixture of labor and mounting excitement.

When the sound becomes a roar, my heart begins to beat faster, until, after a turn, I am faced with the awesome sight—a monstrous rush of water down a 50-foot wall, a force that renders swimming around the drop point impossible (the strong current will simply push one away).

We content ourselves with a dip a few meters off, while clinging to a log that has been permanently lodged in one place.

A swim, a ride on the surf, a trek to the falls, a river cruise.

The next day, we head home. That is all this trip of three days can permit. There are a hundred other things to see (for example, 11 other waterfalls, including the "Father Falls," and uninhabited white-sand beaches up the Aurora coast) and do (say, visiting the 400-year-old balete tree, or maybe even eagle watching). But that is all I need to find what I came here looking for.

Peace. Happiness. Myself.

For other destinations in Aurora, see www.aurora.ph.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Summer delights

THE SEVEN Suites Hotel Observatory in Antipolo City is offering a Family Getaway promo (two cottages with a connecting door, brunch and dinner for six, and use of all the amenities).

From April 7 to 10, the Lenten Summer Deal entitles guests who book two rooms to get another room for free.

The hotel's famous roof-deck observatory allows guests to go stargazing with the use of a state-of-the-art telescope or simply view the city lights. The in-house astronomer is available to assist.

Call 677-5401 to 02 and 240-5093 or e-mail sevensuites@cravingsgroup.com. The hotel is located at the Hollywood Hills Subdivision on Sumulong Highway, across from the Valley Golf Country Club.

* * *

AT THE PLANTATION Bay Resort and Spa in Mactan, Cebu, "Summer Frolix" offers a special rate for Waterview rooms to Philippine residents and *balikbayan* until June 30.

Guests may take part in tai chi or yoga classes, modern dance and jazz sessions, the Aqua Challenge (for thrill-seekers), the Savannah Adventure (for the children), and water sports from the leisurely pedal boating to the more extreme coral and cave scuba diving.

For facial and beauty treatments, massages and aromatherapy treatments, body scrubs and wraps, there are the Mogambo Springs and The Spa at Plantation Bay, and for food trips, the Kilimanjaro Kafé, Palermo, Fiji and Savannah Grill, and assorted kiosks.

Call Cebu direct at (032) 340-5900, Manila at 844-5024 to 25, or toll-free 1-800-1-888-7788.

* * *

ONGOING until April 13 in Cauayan, Isabela, is the Gawagaway-yan Festival, which celebrates the Gaddang ancestry of the people of Cauayan.

The highlight of the 10-day celebration organized by the office of Mayor Ceasar Dy is the opening of the Festival Center, where bamboo stalls showcase the history of the city's 65 barangays and various organizations.

Contact the Secretariat office at 0920-923-5615.

* * *

CALTEX (Philippines) Inc. has launched its Summer Samaritan program, which provides road assistance and medical help to ensure safety during this peak travel season, particularly Holy Week.

Motorists may get their vehicles checked at selected Metro Manila Caltex stations with Xpress Lubes prior to their trip. They will find service tents of Isuzu, Nissan and Toyota in certain stations equipped with repair facilities.

Metrowatch Radio Action Group volunteers will be deployed on major highways and Caltex stations to monitor traffic and provide emergency motorist assistance. In certain areas, a tow truck will be on call. A vehicle towing service will be available during Holy Week.

Red Cross volunteers will be deployed in high-traffic areas. For emergency calls home or elsewhere, Smart cell phones may be used in selected Caltex stations.

Motorists will find clean restrooms in these stations. Grocery items and refreshments are also available at Caltex Star Mart.

The Summer Samaritan is being held in partnership with Metrowatch, Red Cross, 24 Heroes, Motolite, Smart Communications, Toyota, Nissan and Isuzu.

Macau's churches

WHY not make your "Visita Iglesia" in Macau?

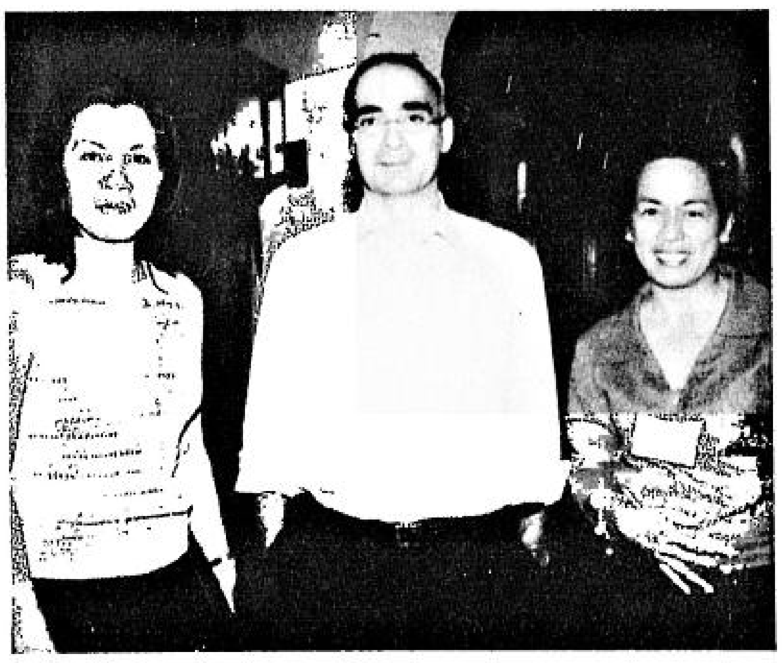
Only an hour and 15 minutes away by air, Macau is packed with churches such as:

- St. Dominic's Church, a 17th-century edifice dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. Located in what is left of the ancient cloister at S. Domingos Square, it has an impressive collection of sacred art that includes original bronze bells from the early 19th century and an outstanding 17th-century portrait of St. Augustine painted in oil on wood.
- The Ruins of St. Paul's, probably the most famous sight in the former Portuguese territory. Built in the early 17th century, the church was designed by an Italian Jesuit with the help of Japanese Christians who had fled persecution in their homeland. It was described as the greatest church east of Rome, with the stonework façade depicting the story of Christianity in Asia. In 1835, a fire destroyed most of the church, leaving only the façade unscathed.
- The chapel of St. Joseph, a frequent subject for artists with its strategic location on a hill with twin brick-roof towers. Planned in the shape of a crucifix, the building is distinguished by its high-domed ceiling and grand staircase that leads to a striking baroque entrance. It also features a silver reliquary containing a partial arm bone of St. Francis Xavier, the Jesuit missionary to Asia who died in a nearby island in 1522.

Contact your travel agent or the Macau Government Tourism Office at 830-2005/2013. Or log on to www.macautourism.gov.mo.

ANTONIO Uy, Lolita Ichikawa, Arnie Jereza and Peter Jones

FARID Schoucair and Dr. Juergeb Chopard


ANA Almeida, Goncalo Moitinho de Almeida and Doris Bohun

RP-based alumni of hotel school hold reunion

THE GLION Hotel School in Switzerland hosted recently a special dinner at Hyatt Regency for its students.

One of the world's leading hospitality management institutions, its graduates include Hyatt Regency president Elizabeth Chan-Parpan, Hyatt general manager Farid Schoucair, Goncalo and Ana Almeida of Le Coeur de France.

Glion graduate Francesca Zimmer is currently working at the newly opened Peninsula Hotel in Chicago.

Interior designer Yolanda Zimmer, Francesca's mother, said that after consulting some people, she and her husband, who is also in the hotel business, decided to send their eldest child to Glion.

The mother proudly added that Francesca apprenticed in hotels in Paris and London. Upon graduation, she applied in seven hotels, which all showed interest in hiring her.

Mathijs and Amylou Aarts of Davao City, who were looking for a school for their son, learned about Glion from a local newspaper. They said their son was very happy in the school.

Aside from the curriculum, one of the advantages of Glion is its majestic campus which faces the Swiss and French Alps across Lake Geneva. The school is directly above Montreux, a popular holiday spot 25 minutes by road from Lausanne and one hour from Geneva.

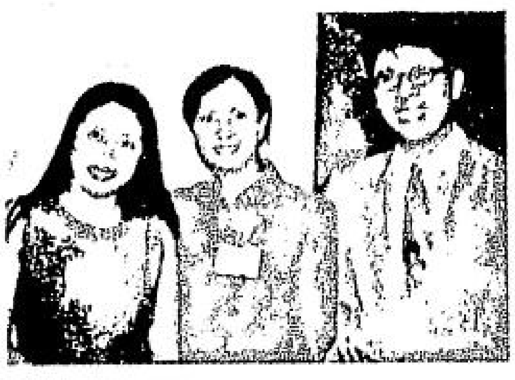
Schoucair said the location was one of the reasons he went to Glion. But he said a Glion diploma also helped open doors for him.

J. Chopard, Glion's director of admissions, personally welcomed the guests that included the school's local representative Doris Bohun, Olly Campos, Nina Halley, Adela and Jojo Jose, Trevor Sturgeon from the International School, Gobin and Kanchan Sadwani and their daughter Diksha, Pablo Trillana, Gela Trillana, Malou Reyes of the Asian Development Bank, Quina Lon, Luisa Lon, Genette Lon from Davao City, Tirso Parpan, Norberto and Steph Ong, Lolita Ichikawa, Tony Uy, Arnie Jereza, Peter Jones, Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz and Liza Mateo of the Swiss Embassy.

ADELA Jose, Jose Jose and Yoly Zimmer

GOBIN, Diksha and Kanchan Sadwani

JOSE Campos, Trevor Sturgeon and Olly Campos


LIZ Mateo, Malou Reyes and Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz

Close up
lova palooza

Congratulations to the 2nd Batch of winners of the Close-up Lovapalooza moments Photo contest

Roderick Masa (Quezon City)
Jose Joey de Leon (Las Pinas City)
Godofredo T. Jumpay (Mandaluyong City)
Jessie C. Laureta (Sampaloc, Manila)
Angelo Pascua (Quezon City)
Manny Llanes (Makati City)
Resty Abella Tica (Mandaluyong City)
Jennifer Castro (Caloocan City)
Cynthia V. Santiago (Cubao, QC)
Florence Aguilar (Makati City)

Congratulations again to all the winners of the photo contest and to all those who have witnessed the record-breaking event!

Winners may claim their prizes at the Unilever Office, 1351 U.N. Ave. Paco, Metro Manila
Just present a valid I.D.
Redemption period will be within 60 days from receive of notification

Per DOH BFAD permit no. 0238 Series of 2004

When innocents come marching into a health resort

From page I-1

natural springs waterfall in a secluded garden.

Air-conditioned accommodations range from rustic, charming thatched cottages to villas with open-sky showers. The luxury health resort offers a special family package that includes free accommodation for two children 12 years old and below, plus minimum charges for activity materials.

Close to the Divine

In these days of environmental free fall and systems breakdown, health becomes a luxury. You may wonder how much it takes for you to breathe freely in an idyllic haven sheltered from noise and pollution under a green canopy of coconut trees and a lush landscape of flowing water, garden walks and mountain-view to bring you close to the Divine.

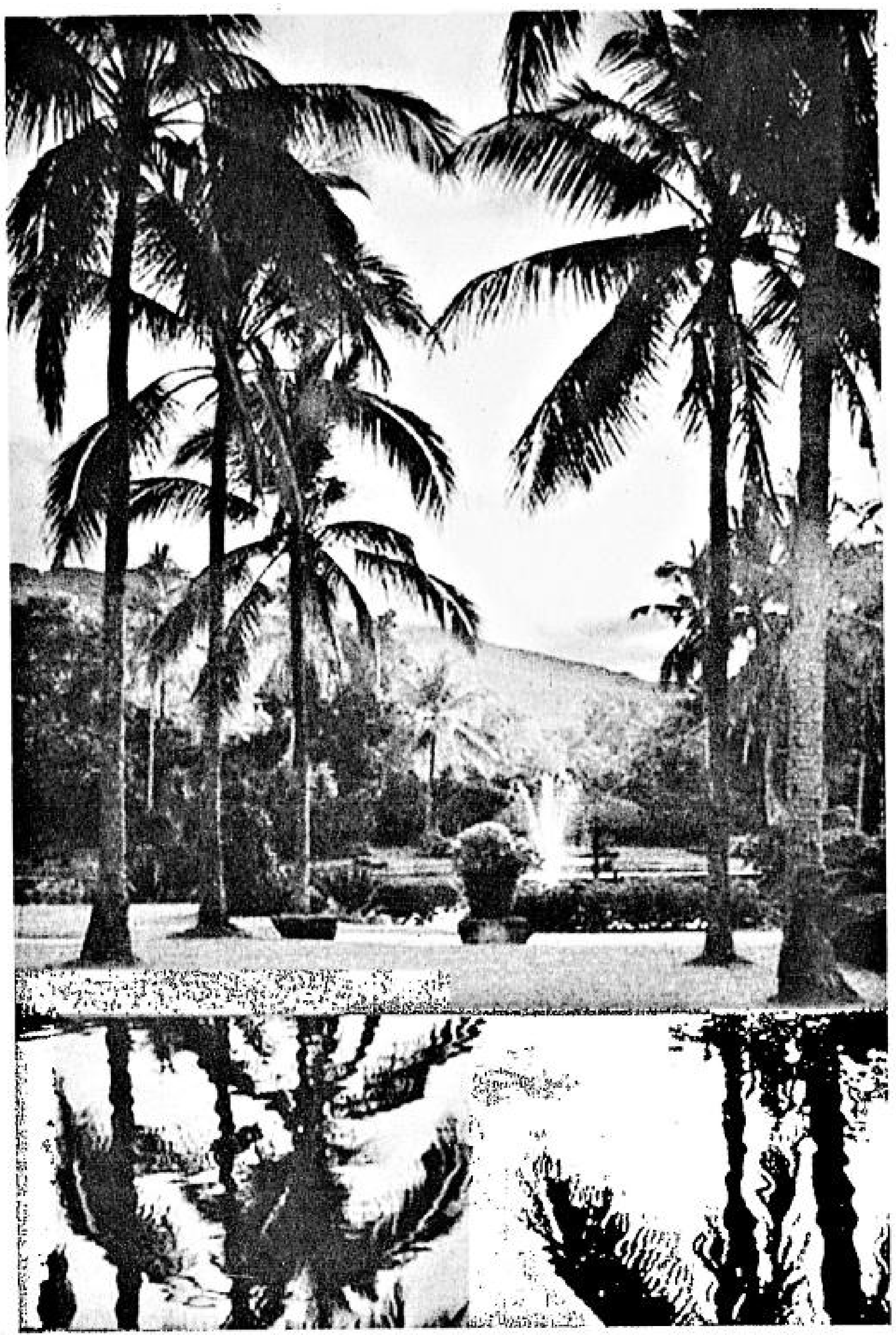
The Farm is one place that lets you indulge in a guilt-free way as you take your kids on the health path away from a toxic environment, their lungs relieved from polluted air, their eating devoid of processed, embalmed, chemicalized junk food.

Mothers and fathers get to explore a medically supervised optimum wellness program that employs natural treatments and integrates living food nutrition, a five- or seven-day detoxification, exercise and spiritual development programs, and spa treatments.

Guest chef Karen Parker from the United States handles Living Food Preparation and Yoga for Adults.

Call Lipa at 6963175 and 6963795 or the Mandarin Oriental Hotel booking office 7513498 and 7513497. Visit www.thefarm.com.ph or e-mail: info@thefarm.com.ph

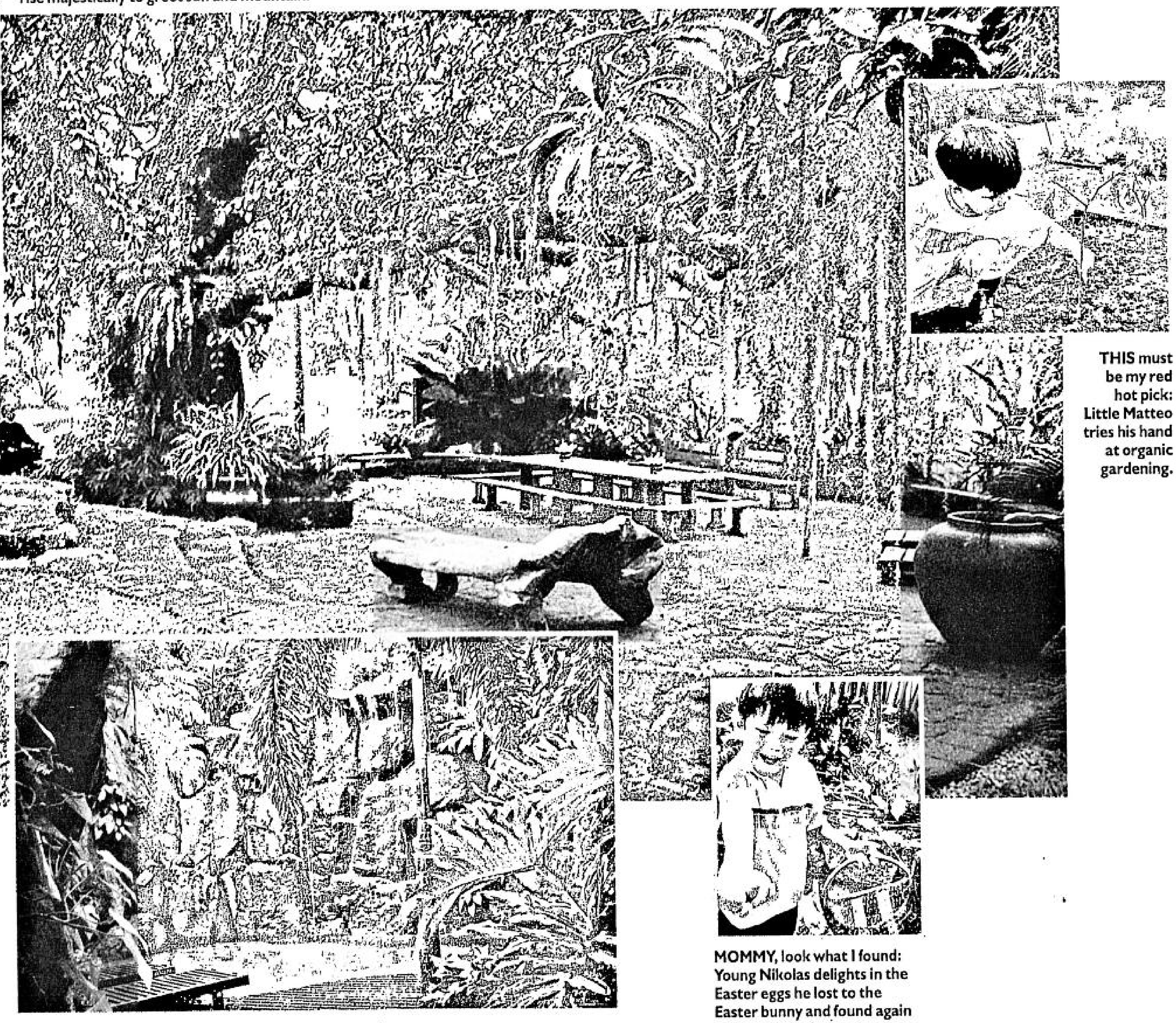
TINY tot takes long sips of *buko* juice al fresco for his dose of antimicrobial enzymes.



ON Palm Sunday begins a spiritual journey where coconut palms rise majestically to greet sun and mountain.

PASSING through a textured gateway from one awareness to another

AH, this is life! Kiddo clad in resort chic enjoys a lungful of unpolluted air at The Farm.



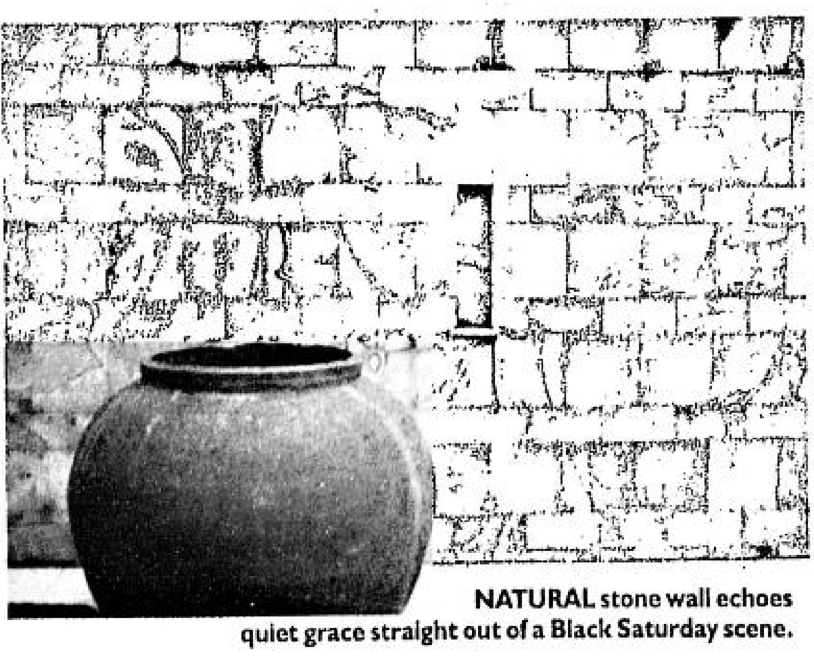
THIS must be my red hot pick: Little Matteo tries his hand at organic gardening.

CONTEMPLATING The Passion in the quiet under God's mango tree

FINDING one's cleansing spring hidden in a secret garden

MOMMY, look what I found: Young Nikolas delights in the Easter eggs he lost to the Easter bunny and found again the morning after.

SWANS frolicking in a lake under a golden sun



NATURAL stone wall echoes quiet grace straight out of a Black Saturday scene.

EASTER morning walk yields to peacocks crossing.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0918) 382-4061 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the Inquirer *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*

STALONE-GARCIA

Darren Stalone, son of **Roy Stalone**, married **Maria Olivia Garcia**, daughter Dr. and Ms. **Jose V. Garcia** of Oriental Mindoro, on Feb. 14 at the Sacred Heart Parish, Vancouver, Canada. The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Fr. **Michael Martell**. Reception followed at Richmond Room, Vancouver Airport Conference Resort (Ramada Plaza Hotel), Richmond, British Columbia.

PARAS-CARLOS

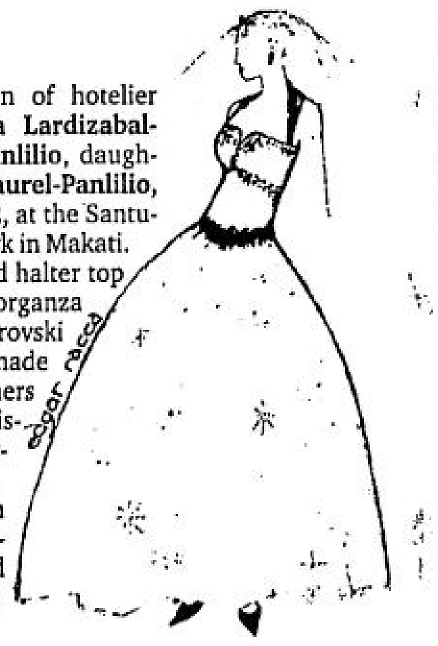
Binky Paras, son of **Rodolfo Paras** and **Natalia Zamora-Paras**, will wed **Maria Christina Carlos**, daughter of **Florante Carlos** and **Agnes Pangilinan-Carlos**, on April 17, in a garden ceremony at Villa Bettina Suites in Tarlac City. Rev. Fr. **Francisco Santos** will officiate. Reception follows at the poolside.

MONDEJAS-PANLILIO

Richard Mondejas III, son of hotelier **Richard** and **Maria Isabella Lardizabal-Mondejas**, and **Alexandra Panlilio**, daughter of **Butch** and **Jasmine Laurel-Panlilio**, will exchange vows on June 12, at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park in Makati.

The bride will wear a ruched halter top gown of Thai silk and frosted organza accented with cut beads, Swarovski crystals, pearls and handmade flowers in ivory with tiny feathers by **Edgar Racca** and his assistant, **Bobby Landiza**, of Okasyon.

An 18-carat gold tiara with diamond and pearl, a Lardizabal family heirloom, will hold the 18-meter illusion tulle veil.



DE DIOS-FRANCISCO

Celina Gomez Francisco, daughter of **Valentin Francisco** and **Encarnacion Gomez** (both deceased), will tie the knot with **Ignacio de Dios Jr.**, son of **Anita Lingat Vda. de Dios**, on April 11.

Reception will follow at the Embassy Ballroom, Traders (Shangri-La) Hotel, Pasay City. The bride is from Kalibo, Aklan, and the groom is from New York City.

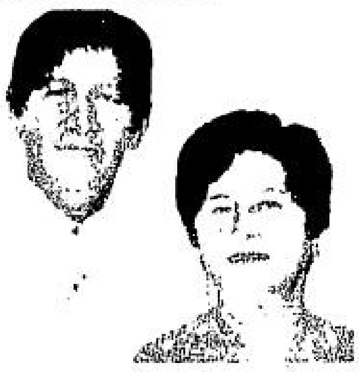
TUMAMPIL-DELFINO

Christopher Tumampil, son of engineer **Vicente** and **Phebe Tumampil**, will tie the knot with **Angie V. Delfino**, daughter of **Reynaldo** and **Ester Delfino**, on April 25, at the Sts. Philip and James Parish Church, Lagonoy, Camarines Sur. Fr. **Anthony Ogena** will officiate. Reception will follow at Almos Garden, Lagonoy, Camarines Sur.

SORIANO-ASCALON

Mark Soriano, son of **Manuel** and **Maida Soriano**, married **Paz Jade Ascalon**, daughter of **Rodolfo** and **Luz Ascalon**, on Dec. 8 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila.

The Mass was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. **Socrates C. Montealto** and Msgr. **Esteban Lo**. Reception followed at the Coral Ballroom of the Manila Pavilion Hotel.



DE JESUS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Leonardo and **Evangeline de Jesus** will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on May 23, at the St. Joseph Parish, O'Donnell, Capas, Tarlac. Reception will follow at the Clarkdine Officers' Club, Clarkfield, Pampanga.

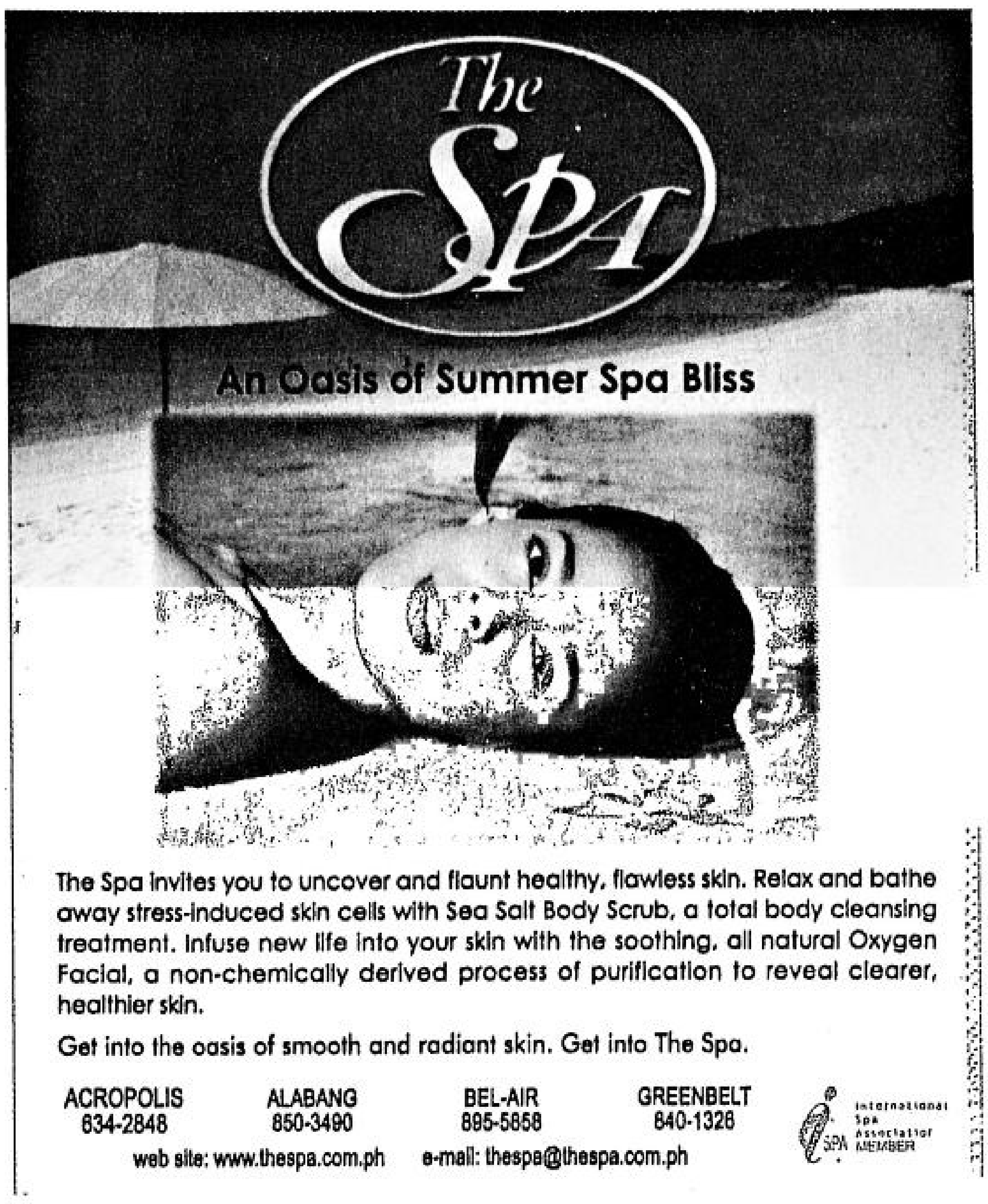
Wedding fair in QC

THE EXPO Centro of Araneta Center in Quezon City is hosting its first ever wedding fair on May 15-16.

Some 100 wedding suppliers will participate in the fair to be held at the trade hall, formerly the Food Dome.

The event will feature "Flores de Mayo, A Terno Display," with selected fashion designers, an embroidery demonstration by Lumban, Laguna craftspeople, and "Men in Bed, A Bridal Shower Presentation," showing hunks in revealing undergarments.

Admission is free. Call Philtrade Exhibits at 8250804/3482.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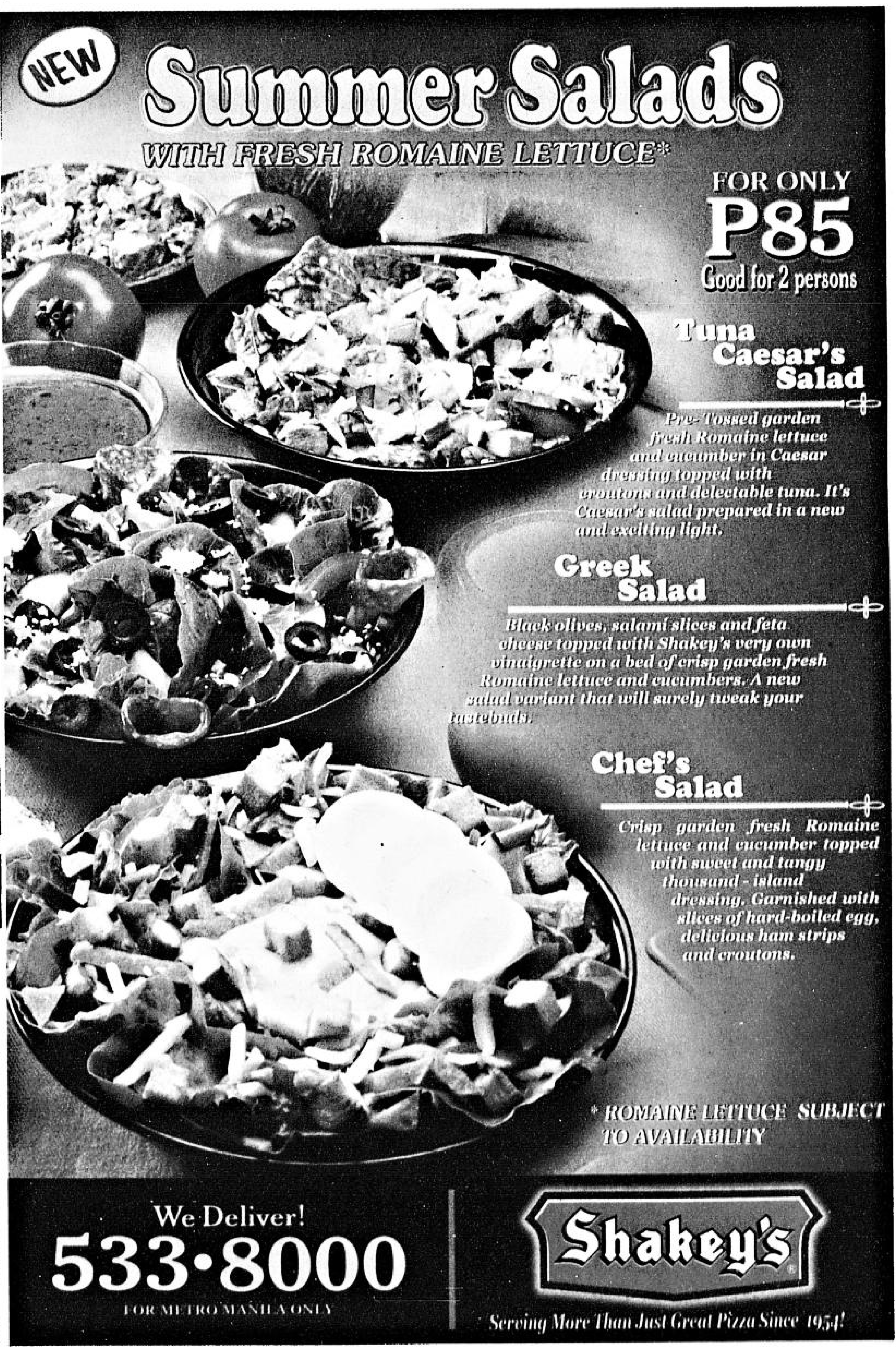
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Greek Salad
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Crisp garden fresh Romaine lettuce and cucumber topped with sweet and tangy thousand - island dressing. Garnished with slices of hard-boiled egg, delicious ham strips and croutons.

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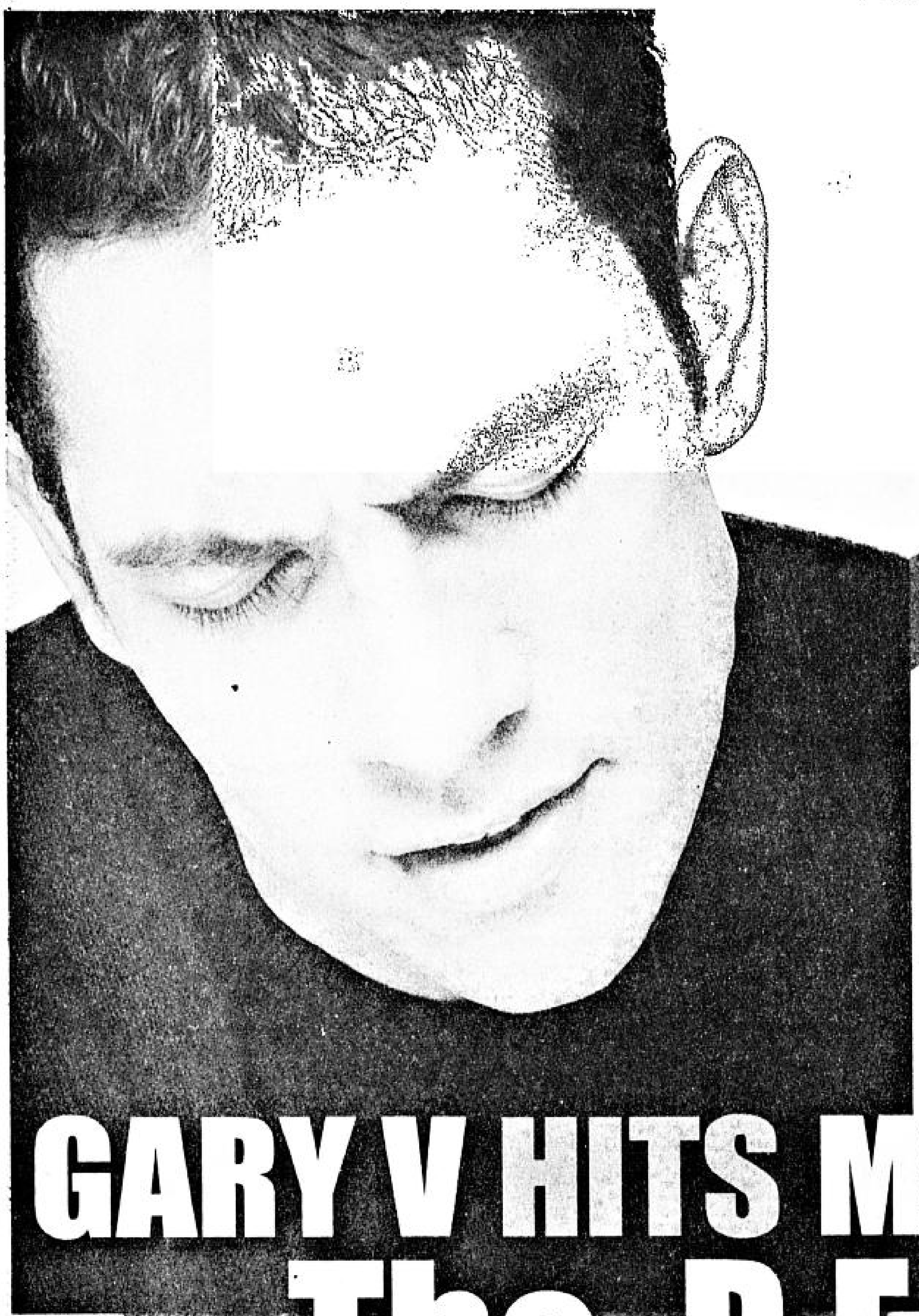
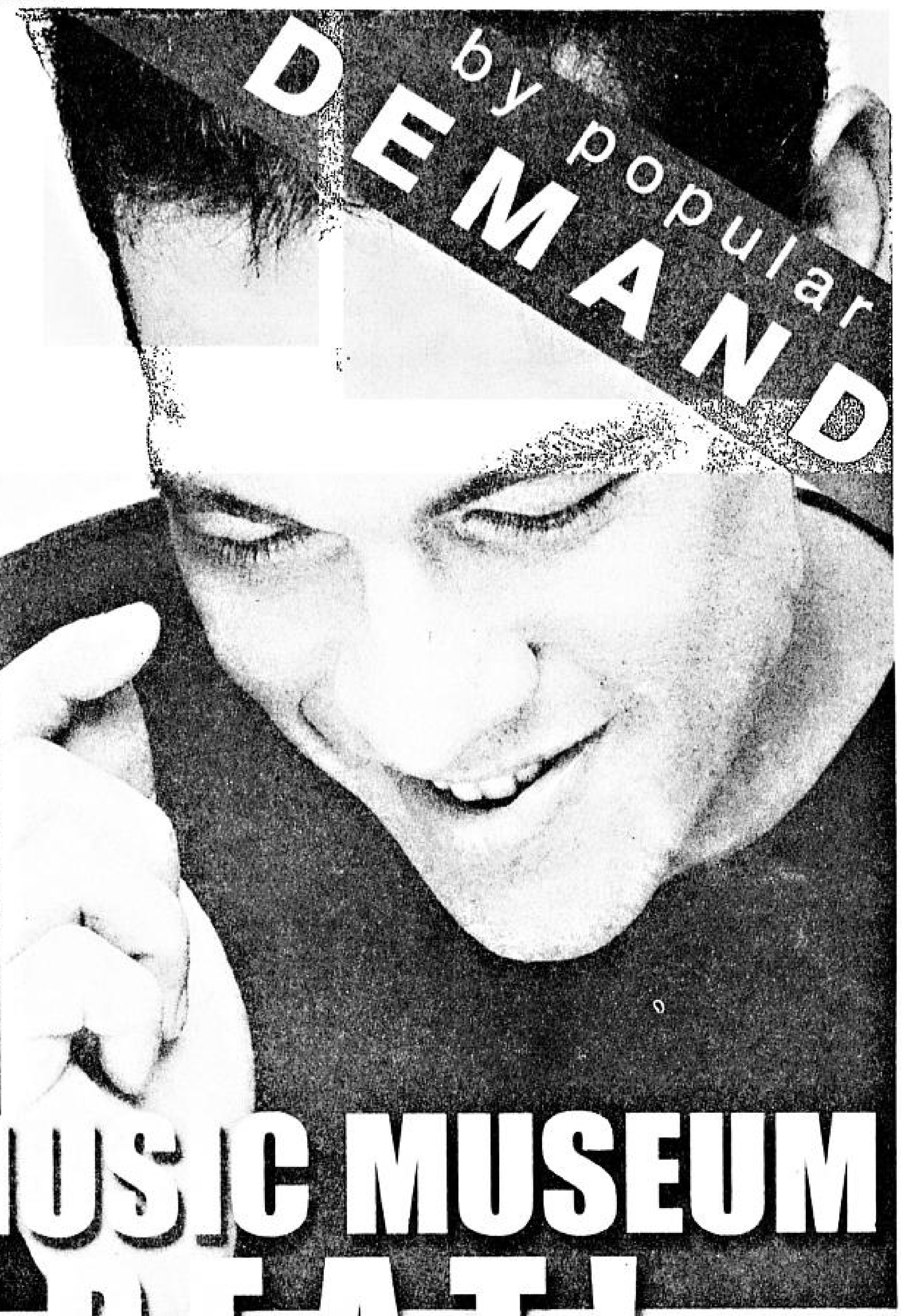


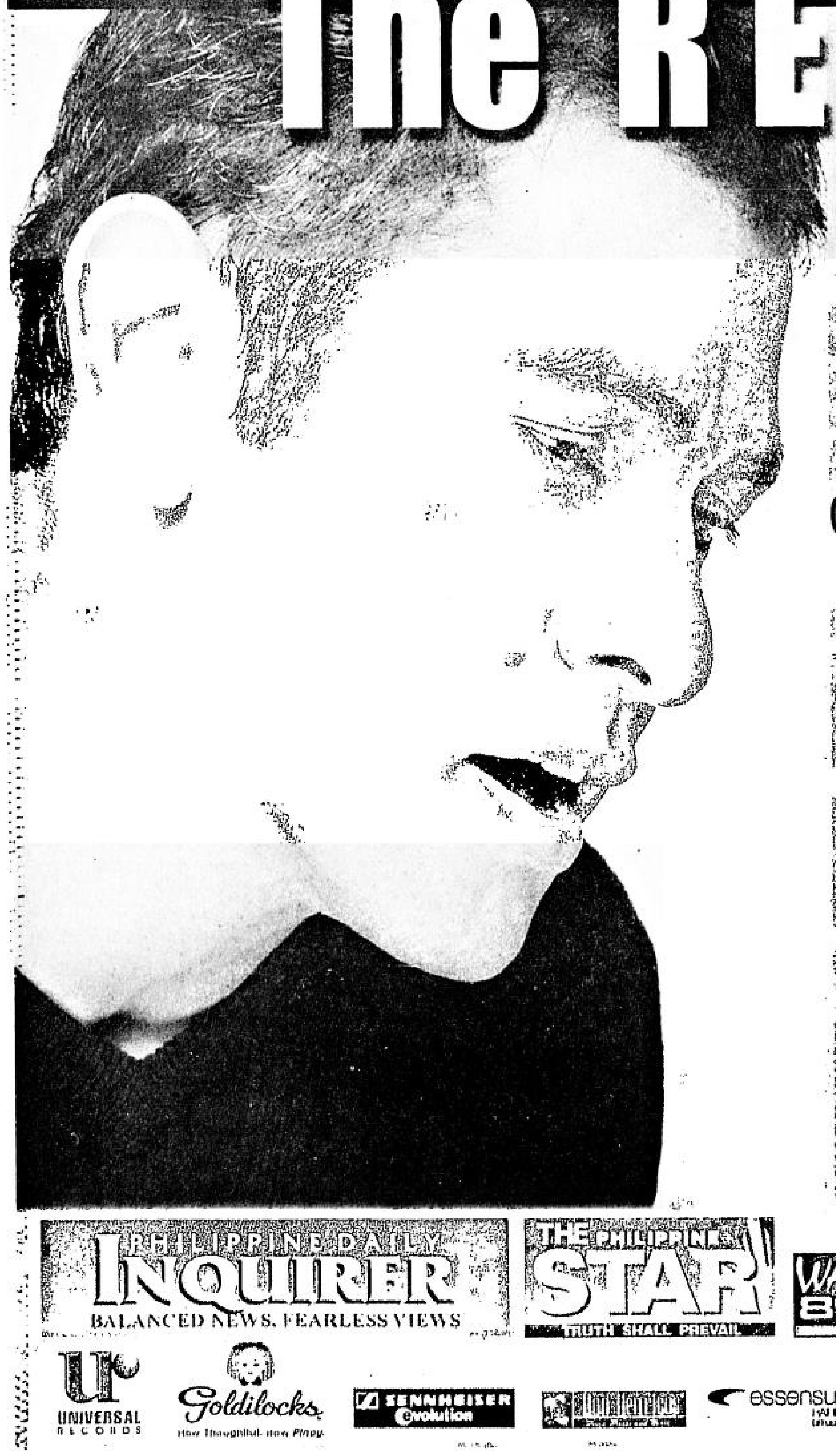


by popular

DEMAND

GARY V HITS MUSIC MUSEUM

The REPEAT!



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MANILA GENESIS

Former Manila visitor may be canonized

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

NEWS that the cause of the canonization of Bishop Alvaro del Portillo was started March 5 was good news to his friends in the Philippines that he visited in 1987. Bishop Portillo, who succeeded Josemaria Escriva after the latter's death on June 26, 1975, supported the founder and the work of Opus Dei for 40 years.

The bishop died in Rome on March 23, 1994. His remains now lie in the crypt of the Our Lady of Peace Church in Viale Bruno Buozzi 75 in Rome.

When he was in the Philippines, Bishop Portillo had a catechetical get-together with Opus Dei members and the public at the Plenary Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center. He answered questions on the spiritual life, sanctification of work, family life and social responsibility.

Cebu training center

Struck by the poverty in some portions of Cebu, he encouraged the Opus Dei there to establish educational and capacity-building projects and personally monitored the establishment of the Center for Industrial Technology and Enterprise, now a major training institute in Cebu.

Other projects established under his guidance and inspiration include the Dualtech Training Centers, Family Farm Schools, Anihan Rural Development Center in Calamba and other parts of the country, DAWV Foundation projects for women, and Famcohsef health projects.

Intercessor for money

Since Bishop Portillo was the main fundraiser of St. Josemaria Escriva when they were building the men's and women's centers in Rome, he is known to be a powerful intercessor for financial needs. Vicky Echauz handed me a prayer card of Bishop Portillo that said he was good at getting one's financial situation in order. I found this out several times.

After his death in 1994, many have sought his intercession. Favors granted have been reported from all over the world. Thirty-five cardinals and 200 bishops from 25 countries asked for the cause to be started.

Those who wish to send testimonies can write the Prelature of Opus Dei, 20 Sampaguita St., cor. Balete Drive, 1112 New Manila, Quezon City. You can also ask for prayer cards.

Who was Bishop Portillo?

Alvaro del Portillo was born in Madrid on March 11, 1914. He was the third of eight children in a devout Catholic family. He studied engineering and began working professionally in that field. In addition to a doctorate in engineering, he later got doctorates in history and canon law.

In 1935, Del Portillo joined Opus Dei, founded by St. Josemaria Escriva seven years before. He sought to sanctify his professional work and daily duties and carried out a broad apostolate with his classmates and colleagues. He soon became St. Josemaria's strongest supporter for almost 40 years.

On June 25, 1944, Del Portillo was ordained one of the first three priests of Opus Dei. He dedicated himself to pastoral ministry, serving the members of Opus Dei and many others. In 1946, he moved to Rome with St. Josemaria and served on Opus Dei's general council until 1975.

Visitas Iglesias

Adam's Express Travel is arranging the "Visitas Iglesias" during the five-day Holy Week vacation. The package includes transportation, programming, guided sightseeing and meals.

For Holy Wednesday, the tour goes to the most splendid churches of Bulacan and Pampanga. Participants will get to see Lenten practices at the lovely National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Marilao, the half-buried church of Bacolor, the exquisite church of Betis, the historic church of Barasoain and the magnificent churches of Angeles, San Fernando, Guagua and Malolos. The tour is capped by the procession in Baliuag, with some 50 *carrozas* participating.

Holy Thursday starts with a hearty breakfast at Antonio's in Tagaytay followed by a visit to Caleruega, which showcases a bit of Spain in the Philippines. Sites of devotion are the miraculous Our Lady of Caysasay in Taal and the huge Basilica de San Martin de Porres, the apparition site at Carmel Monastery, Cathedral of Lipa and Shrine of St. Joseph in San Jose, Batangas.

Adam's Travel is also organizing a trip to Santiago de Compostela in Spain and Marian shrines on May 13. Call 5211638 or 5211651.

Holy Week reading

Get a copy of the magazine "*Si Kristo at Maria sa Buhay ng Pamilya*" published by The Sacrament of Love Foundation. Text Bro. Doming Deauna at 0918-7281691.

Holy Week in San Mateo

Our Lady Mary Mediatrix of All Grace Chapel in Montery Hills, San Mateo, Rizal, will conduct Holy Week activities in cooperation with the San Antonio Maria Zaccaria Parish April 4-11. Schedule is: Palm Sunday—3 p.m. Mass after the blessings of the Santo Entierro and palms; Holy Tuesday and Wednesday—*pabasa*, 3 p.m.-12 mn; Holy Thursday—5 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper; 7 p.m., Altar of Repose vigil; Good Friday—6-8 a.m., Stations of the Cross, 1-3 p.m., Seven Last Words; Holy Saturday—8 p.m., Easter Vigil Mass; Easter Sunday, 3 p.m., Mass of the Resurrection.

BISHOP Alvaro del Portillo (right) with Pope John Paul II

10-day festival begins

CAUAYAN City in Isabela marks the annual Gawagaway-yan Festival until April 13.

The highlight of the 10-day celebration is the opening of the Festival Center.

Gawagaway-yan traces the ancestry of Cauayenos through the ethnolinguistic group called Gaddang but also pays tribute to the diversity of Cauayan.

The festival theme is "Gummuang to Cauayan" ("to arrive in Cauayan").

The new festival center, main venue for the celebration, has an exhibition area for the 65 barangays of Cauayan and their organizations.

Activities lined up include athletic competitions, bazaars, a carnival night, concerts, film showings, bamboo planting, bamboo games, bamboo craft-making contest, etc. There's also a Binibining Gawagaway-yan beauty pageant.

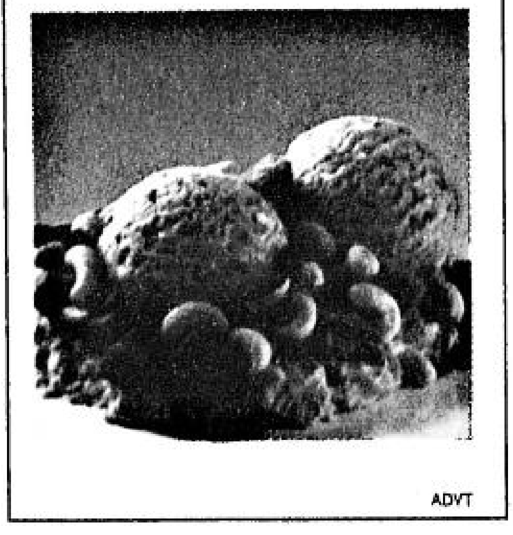
Call or text 0920-9235615.

Selecta's coffee-rich Coffee Crumble

After Selecta discovered the best coffee beans by the Benedictine monks, it didn't take long for the product development team to come up with a new and improved Coffee Crumble.

Specially picked coffee beans, which are carefully grown in the lush mountains of Bukidnon are used to create the finest ice cream that will definitely wake up the senses. These humble monks have perfected the craft of growing coffee beans, and these same beans are then blended and roasted to perfection to achieve that freshly brewed coffee taste that is rich and full-bodied. Selecta was successful in recreating an ice cream flavor by giving it more kick that for sure coffee lovers will rave about! And you can get it in a half-gallon, Take Two, pint and stick.

Once again Selecta successfully staged a flavor coup, capturing everybody's craving for an old time favorite and innovating it into an improved Selecta Creation.



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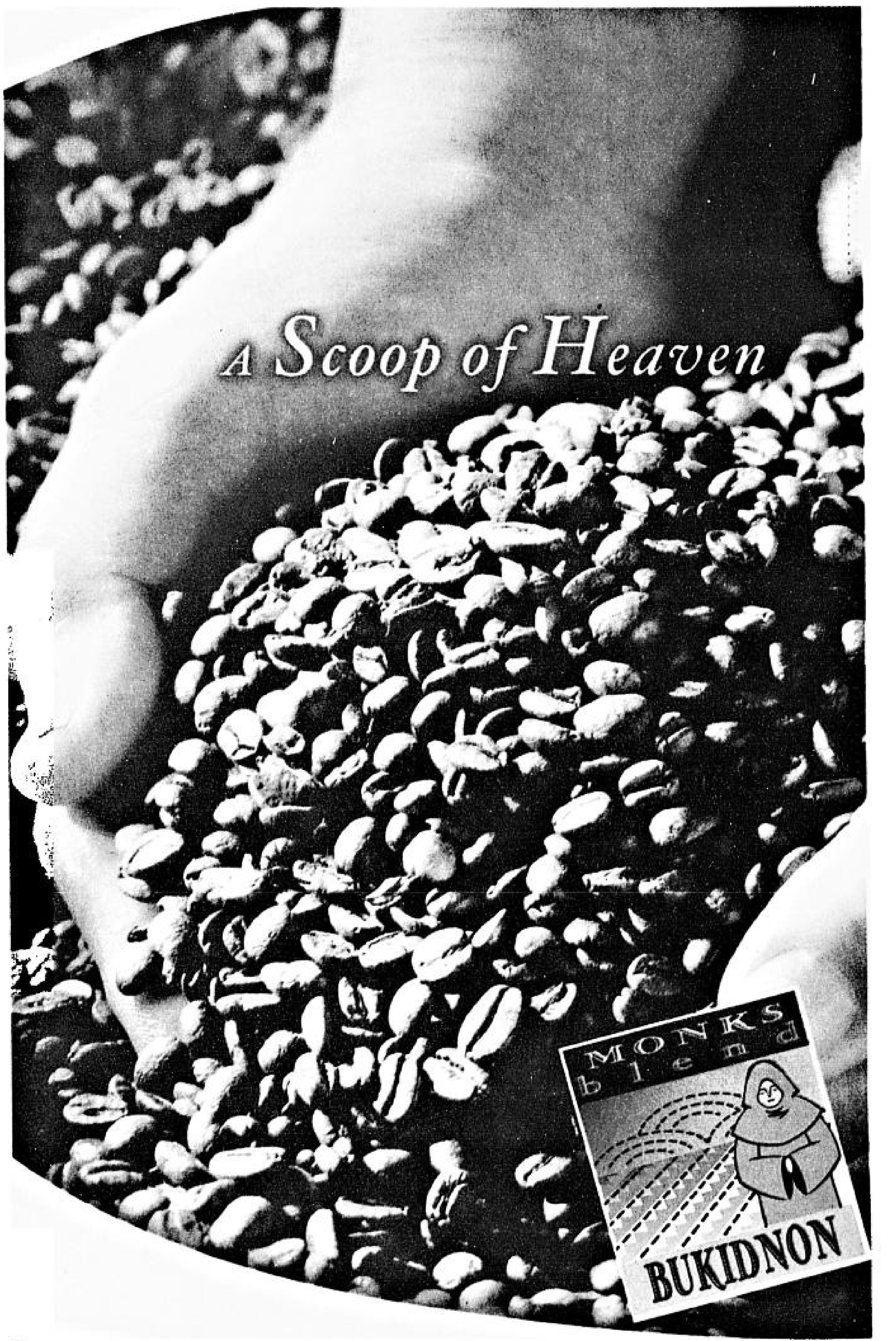

Brewed from the finest coffee beans from the hills of Bukidnon. Delicately picked, piously roasted by the same Monks who grow them. Ice cream experience has never been this divine.
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Available in gallon, half gallon, take two, pint and stick

A grand betrothal ceremony in idyllic Plantation Bay

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

A TWO-NIGHT fete at Plantation Bay marked the betrothal of **Lia Feraren** and **Leo Reznicek** of Bavaria (Germany). Lia is the daughter of **Joji Feraren** of Manila and his Cebuana wife, **Teresita "Chiqui" Reyes Feraren.** As a child, Lia spent her summers in Cebu with grandparents **Rex Reyes** and **Consuelo Cuenco Reyes.**

Leo is the son of **Peter Reznicek** and **Renate Liertz.** He met Lia in Germany, as they both worked for Insead, and decided to get married a year ago. Invitations to the betrothal in Cebu this March, as well as to the wedding come June in Bavaria, were sent out last October.

This allowed for travel plans to be made efficiently. Lots of Leo's relatives and friends came to Cebu for the fete, led by his grandmother **Hildegarde Reznicek,** and best friend **Lorenz Prelinger** who will be the best man. **Aris Go,** who was in Cebu for this celebration, is Lia's best friend and will be her maid of honor.

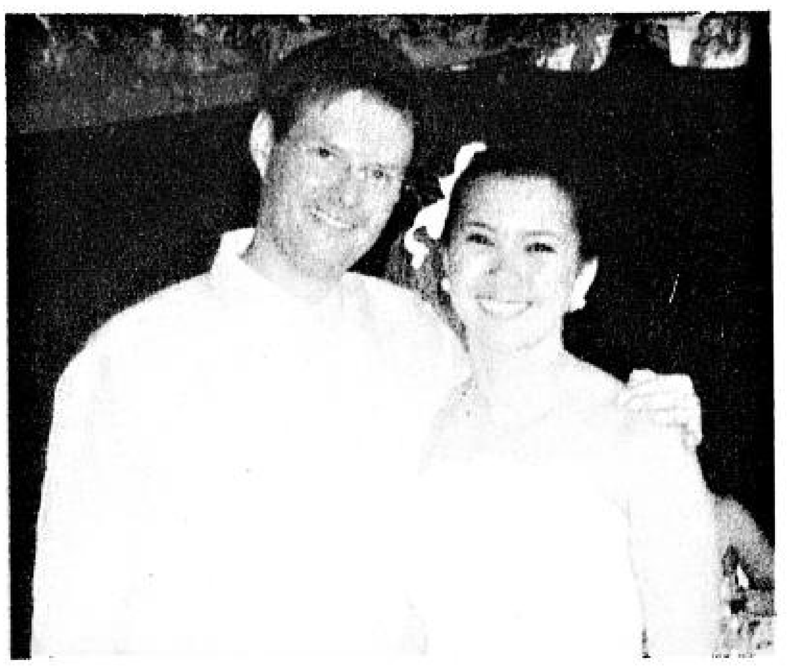
First night of the Cebu fete was dubbed "Polterabend," which is the German equivalent of "despedida de soltera." **Val Sandiego's** dance troupe performed a variety of Philippine folk dances which delighted foreign guests.

Next day, at twilight, was the betrothal ceremony, melded into a holy Mass. The setting was idyllic—on a peninsula of sugary white sand on Plantation Bay's blue lagoon. Tiny rafts of flowers and candles floated about the placid waters which reflected the sky's changing colors at sunset.

Cocktails and seafood delights were served right after the ritual before everyone went to the seashore for dinner. Tents had been set up with flowers and fairy lights. The men were given tiny candles to light when Lia and Leo would come down the torch-lit path. The ladies had baskets of petals to toss at them.

Joji and Chiqui were the perfect hosts, assisted by their son **Pepper Feraren.** Joji's family had come from Manila—parents **Aristeo** and **Elena Feraren, Butch Feraren, Mike** and **Baby Ampil** (nee **Feraren**). Chiqui, in a pink satin terno and dazzling heirloom diamonds, was all over greeting her Cebu family.

Rex and Cons Reyes were there, as were **Federico Reyes Jr.** with his wife **Elizabeth** and daughter **Mitzi, Tino** and **Marylou Reyes** with little **Anika. Titang Cuenco Gonzalez** was wearing spectacular diamonds herself. She came with ever-loving Col. **Antonio Gonzalez** and their children **Manny** and **Ellen Gonzalez; Sonny** and **Len-Len Conejos,** with their **Christine, Rocky** and **Anton.**



LEO Reznicek and Lia Feraren

Most radiant of all were Lia and Leo, of course. They did not stay long at their assigned seats, hopping as they did from table to table, greeting everyone, and posing for photos.

Guests were impressed with the splendid buffet consisting of Spanish, Filipino and international specialties. An array of desserts were on a separate table. Excellent wines from **Gabriel Palmer's** Bona Viña were served. The Mutya Strings performed all night, classic numbers as well as pop music.

The wedding of Lia and Leo on June 19 in Bavaria is set at 10 a.m. at the pilgrim church of Streichenkirche in Chiemgau, near the village of Schleling. This will be held in one of the world's most beautiful areas—Lake Chiemsee. A typical Bavarian lunch will be served at the adjacent Berggasthof.

Boat schedules will be distributed for the evening celebration at Fraueninsel. This is one of the three isles on Lake Chiemsee, where Leo's mother Renate went to school. It also holds many memories for Leo who spent summers as a child in this area.

Fraueninsel is Bavaria's smallest municipality founded in 722 by Duke Tassilo II. Nuns from the monastery, whose campanile dominates the skyline up to this day, row out to diminutive Krautinsel to gather herbs that grow there in profusion. These are used to make the liqueurs they are famous for.

The third isle on Lake Chiemsee is Herreninsel, which is famous for the magnificent castle built as a copy of the Chateau de Versailles by Bavaria's King Ludwig II.

JOJI and Chiqui Feraren

RENATE Liertz

FEDERICO Reyes Jr.

ELIZABETH Reyes and daughter Mitzi

PEPPER Feraren, Aris Go and Lorenz Prelinger

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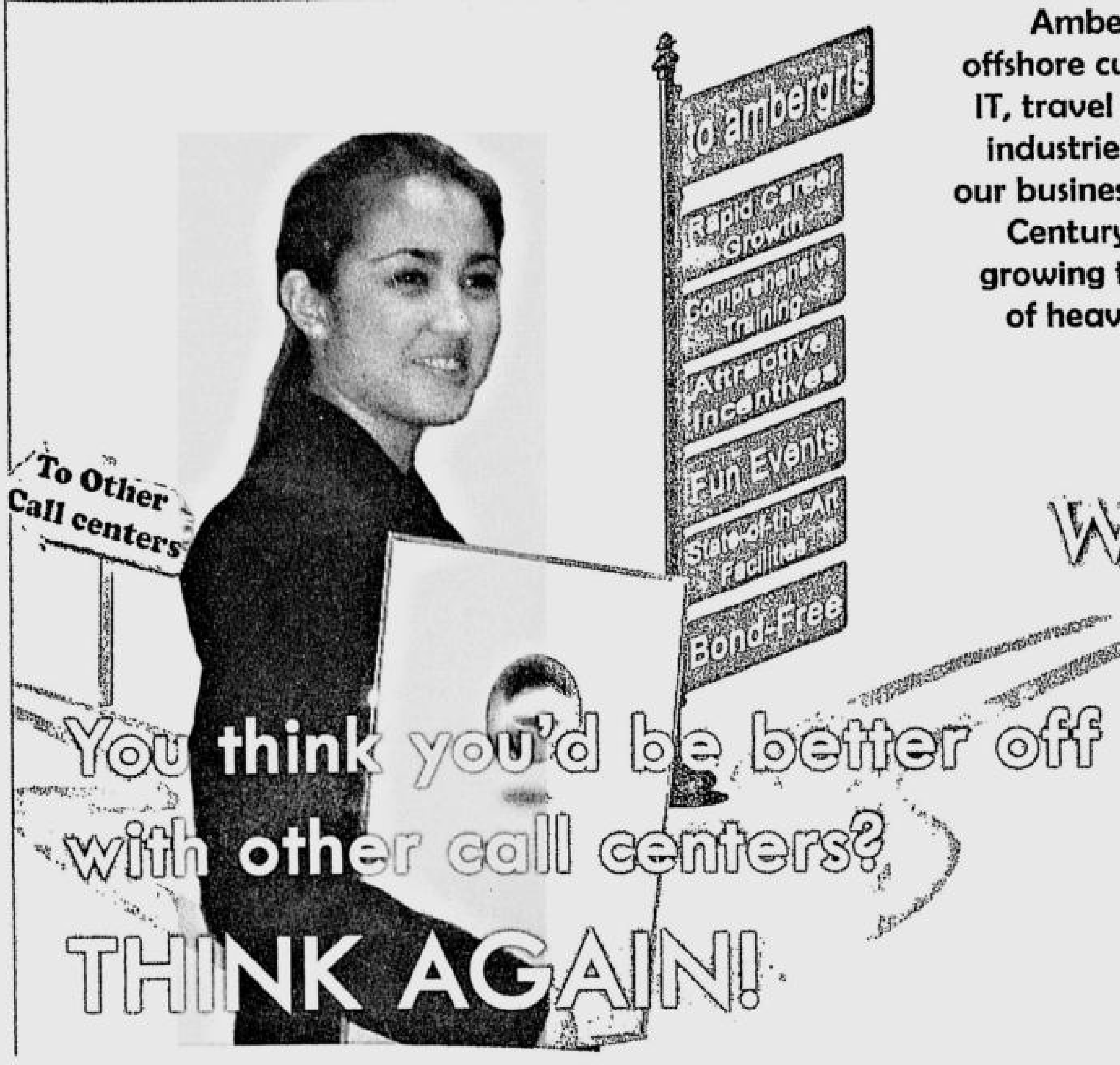

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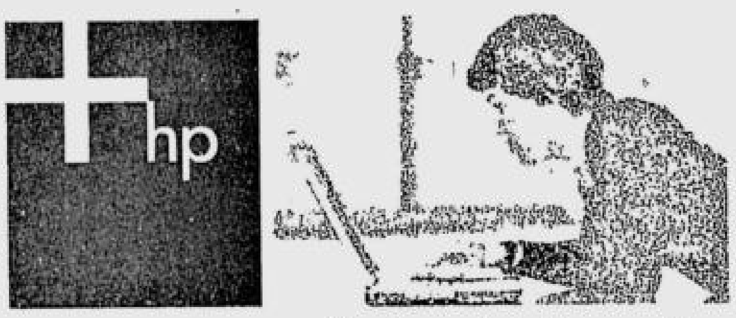

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Tel No. 551-2806/831-1868

Elite Garments International, Inc.
owner and manufacturer of established brand names for the local and export market

solo freeway ENSEMBLES

JR. FASHION MERCHANDISER

- Loves fashion & knows current trends in ladies teenwear
- Will be involved in design dev't & retail merchandising
- W/ artistic background & at least 2-3 yrs work experience
- Mature, with leadership capabilities
- Female, below 30 yrs. old, w/ courses in Fine Arts, Advertising, Marketing, Graphic Arts, Fashion Design & related courses

LOGISTICS & INVENTORY SUPERVISOR

- M/F, below 35 yrs. old, w/ Engineering background
- At least 3 yrs. exp. in: Inventory planning, warehouse management & distribution planning in retail and/or manufacturing industries.
- Highly organized & analytical

TRAINING OFFICER

- Loves coaching & meeting people
- Will be involved in preparing & executing training modules for sales personnel
- Female or gay, with at least 1 year experience in retail, customer service training or related fields

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- Female, Accounting Grad, below 30 yrs. old
- With 1 to 2 yrs. exposure on Accounting functions
- Computer literate, knowledge in MS office
- Hardworking & can work with minimum supervision

Send resumé with school credentials or fax/e-mail at:
PERSONNEL DEPT.
996 P. Ocampo Sr. St.(Vito Cruz) Malate, Manila
Tels. #525-3593/523-0957 Fax # 521-36-71
E-mail :grace @elitegarments.com

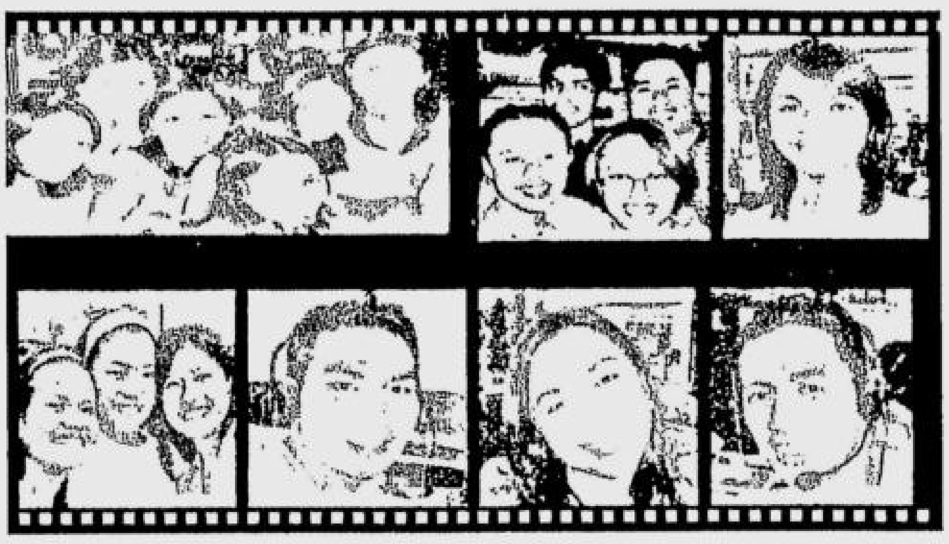
Chemonics International (www.chemonics.com), a US-based international development consulting firm, is currently seeking candidates to work on a USAID-funded five-year Environmental Governance Phase II (Eco-Gov 2) project in the Philippines. The EcoGov 2 Project will collaborate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), local government units (LGUs), and local institutions to sustainably manage forest, coastal-marine and water resources, and promote integrated solid waste management through effective governance.

We are recruiting for the following positions:

Senior Governance/Institutional Development Specialist
Senior Policy Specialist
Natural Resources Management Specialist
Coastal Resources Management Specialist
Urban Environmental Management Specialist
IEC/Advocacy Specialist
Municipal/Micro-Finance Specialist
Gender and Environment Specialist

All positions require 5-10 years working experience in the relevant field in the Philippines and/or the Asia/Pacific region. An advanced degree (Masters or Doctorate level) in a relevant discipline is highly preferred. Applicants must also have strong interpersonal and teamwork skills, and excellent written and oral communication abilities.

Qualified applicants should send a cover letter and a detailed curriculum vitae to ecogov@chemonics.net no later than April 30, 2004.



Picture yourself ... in their shoes or better yet ... in their headsets

Our **Customer Service Representatives** come from different schools in Metro Manila and the provinces. They have had different past jobs from various industries. Some were teachers, salesmen, med reps, or CSRs from other call centers. Some are fresh grads, housewives, or people going back to the workforce after years of pursuing other personal interests. They have different ages (anywhere from 20 to secret), different college degrees, different hobbies, talents, past lives, etc. You can say we celebrate diversity. What they do have in common are the following:
they love talking on the phone for hours on end (we mean this literally)
they like interacting with new people from different countries
they love exploring new opportunities and learning new things
they're night people (they love to work at night and sleep during the day)
they're comfortable conversing with foreigners (Americans, Hispanics, Europeans, Asians) using American English
they're good with basic math - addition, subtraction, multiplication, division
they have a passion for helping other people

If you have these qualities, have a college degree, are computer proficient, and have strong customer service skills- chances are, you can become one of our good **Customer Service Representatives (Inbound/Outbound)**. If you've always wanted to work in a call center, you might as well join the head of the pack.

PARLANCE SYSTEMS INC.

Hand carry your resume and 1X1 picture to:
PLDT Compound Nicanor Garcia corner Jupiter Sts., Makati City Email it to:
psi@parlance.com.ph

ePLDT

Robinsons Handyman
Home Improvement Center

Handyman Do it Best Home Center

We are one of the leading home improvement centers in the country. Established in 1994, the company now has more than 40 branches and is still expanding in key cities nationwide:

We are in need of an Operations Manager for Visayas and Mindanao and Key Officers for our soon-to-open branch in Bohol

OPERATIONS MANAGER – VISMIN

- Shall lead a group of Managers for stores located in Visayas and Mindanao in initiating action plans to meet sales and profitability targets and maintain the highest standards of visual display and customer service
- With at least 3 years of experience in store management
- Shall report directly to the General Manager

SENIOR STORE SUPERVISOR / STORE MANAGER

- Responsible for overall store operations – conceptualization and effective implementation of business strategies to achieve sales targets
- Shall effectively implement customer service, personnel management and inventory control
- With at least 2 years store management experience in a retail environment
- Will report directly to the Operations Manager

STORE SUPERVISOR FOR OPERATIONS

- Assists the Store Manager in implementing customer service, merchandise display and achievement of department profitability
- Experience in service-oriented companies like retail and fastfood will be an advantage
- Must possess strong leadership skills and willing to work on weekends and holidays

Interested parties are requested to bring or send their resumé with latest 2 x 2 picture and transcript of records to:

ROBINSONS HANDYMAN, INC.
110 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City
or email us at: humanresources@handyman.com.ph

Igedo Fashions, Inc.
Engaged in the retail operations of
Liz Claiborne and **Boss Hugo Boss** are in need of

Female Sales Associates

with the following qualifications:

- College degree preferred but not a must
- What are musts?
  - Must be between 21 to 26 years old
  - at least two years of experience in fashion or prime-brand retail operation
  - good communication, interpersonal and computational skills
  - good sense of order, discipline and responsibility
  - openness to learn and to contribute to the continuous improvement process

Please bring your resumé with a 2x2 picture to the Liz Claiborne store, Level 3, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, EDSA cor. Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City.

An Entertainment Construction Company is in need of the following:

OFFICE ASSISTANT

- Management Graduate or any Business Course
- With Good Communication Skills
- Computer Literate
- Fresh Graduate are welcome to apply
- Preferably Marikina Resident

BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT

- Accounting Graduate
- With Experience
- Familiar with BIR Taxation and other governmental requirements
- Experience in an Auditing Firm is an advantage
- Computer Literate
- Preferably Marikina Resident

Please apply in person with complete resumé and picture at:

VISUAL ILLUSION QUEST CORPORATION
119 MH Del Pilar Street
Calumpang, Marikina City
Tel. No. 645-5488 / 645-3094
E-mail. propsotfx@yahoo.com

The Asia Foundation
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

The Asia Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous and open Asia Pacific region. Programs in the Philippines have been strengthening good governance and citizen participation since 1954. The Asia Foundation's current programs in the Philippines promote government accountability and improve the public's access to the justice system.

The Asia Foundation is seeking to recruit a Financial Management Assistant for a position based in Manila, Philippines to assist the Foundation's Grants Auditor/Administrator in grant management. He or she will report directly to the Grants Auditor/Administrator under the over-all supervision of the Finance & Administration Officer.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Accountancy required, CPA or CPA candidate strongly preferred; experience in financial and administrative tasks may substitute for Certification.

Closing Date: Thursday, April 15, 2004

Interested applicants are invited to send an email to general@asiafound.org.ph requesting a summary of the job responsibilities for the position.

The Asia Foundation
P.O. Box 7072
Domestic Airport Post Office
Pasay City
Metro Manila, Philippines
Attn: Representative
E-mail: general@asiafound.org.ph
Fax: 853-0474
Phone inquiries discouraged

BELLE CORPORATION

A leading leisure property developer invites you to join its roster of young, dynamic, and successful individuals.

Junior Marketing Assistant

Excellent communication & analytical skills with a keen eye for details
Dynamic & assertive individual who can work under pressure

Division Secretary

Proficient in Microsoft Office applications
Excellent communication skills
Able to work with minimum supervision

Corporate Planning Analyst

Graduate of Accountancy, Finance or Economics
Preferably a CPA
At least 1 year working experience gained from a management consulting/auditing firm
Knowledgeable in financial modeling and feasibility studies
Excellent skills in Microsoft Office applications
Analytical, hardworking & willing to work long hours to meet deadlines
Good written and oral communication skills

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resume and recent 2x2 photograph not later than 21 April 2004 to:

Box No. 100 c/o Phil. Daily Inquirer
5/F Bldg. B SM Megamall Mandaluyong City 1550

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A *leading multinational company* is in URGENT need of a dynamic, assertive and mature professional to occupy the following position in our organization:

CHARTERING & SHIPPING MANAGER

(MANILA BASED)

- Male, not more than 45 years old
- Holder of a college degree preferably in Marine Transportation
- Represent and act as owner's representative or principal's agent for vessels calling Philippine ports
- Send shipping advise to all concerned port authorities prior to vessel's arrival
- Coordinate and make representations with customs, quarantine & immigration and other port authorities
- Arrange berthing schedule with pilot, PPA and terminal management
- Discuss discharging/loading operation with shipper/consignee and with terminal cargo handlers
- Keep in constant contact with shipmaster to get updates and vessel's position and ETA
- Facilitate all entry & exit requirements/documents of a vessel .
- Facilitate all documentation requirements with customs and immigration for both joining and repatriating crew
- Arrange for chandling requirements of vessel
- Solicit cargoes for booking
- Full knowledge of agency work; formerly as supercargo
- Familiar with documents needed for the entry & exit requirements of the vessel
- Knowledge on nautical plotting to determine position and ETA of vessels
- Familiar with Conline and Gencon booking
- Can communicate well with ship owners and port authorities

Qualified candidates are requested to submit their comprehensive and detailed resumé indicating the minimum salary desired, latest 2 x 2 photo, cellphone number/s and other relevant credentials to:

P.O. BOX 7748
Domestic Airport Office
Metro Manila, Philippines
Attention: THE LEGAL & PERSONNEL AFFAIRS DEPT.

AMERICAN LONGEVITY INTERNATIONAL and its founder **Dr. Joel Wallach**, author of world famed **"Dead Doctors Don't Lie"** would like to share his message about Health and Nutrition.

We want highly motivated **BUSINESS LEADERS** and **DISTRIBUTORS** to be a part of this growing company. The company's big successes in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and recently opened market in Japan, Singapore and Thailand are a result of the company's distributor support and products that work. Log on to www.americanlongevity.net to look at the company's profile and call **Ted Soriano** at **0918-412-1591 or 7221563.**

SIBS Publishing House, Inc.
is in search of candidates to fill in the position of:

SEMINAR COORDINATOR

Job Description

- Responsible for coordinating seminars, book exhibits, book launchings, and other corporate events

Qualifications

- Female, 22-27 years old, single
- College graduate from reputable university with AB Masscom or Communication/Liberal Arts degree
- Excellent communication skills both oral and written
- Good interpersonal or people / PR Skills
- Adaptable and can work under pressure and multiple tasks
- Must be willing to travel and render overtime work
- Possess good leadership qualities
- Two-three years in experience in promotions and marketing *(an advantage)*

Please send or e-mail your comprehensive resumé with recent photo and transcript of records to:

Personnel Department
c/o Irish Tagapia
SIBS Publishing House, Inc.
8/F Globe Telecom Plaza II
Pioneer Highlands,
Pioneer corner Madison Streets
1552 Mandaluyong City
E-mail: sibsbook@info.com.ph

A FOOD INGREDIENT COMPANY NEEDS

FOOD TECHNOLOGIST

Qualifications:

- female (single)
- 21-25 years old
- B.S. Food Technology graduate
- preferably one or two years working experience in Food Institution or Food Manufacturing.

Send to:

P.O. Box 19399, SAN JUAN
CENTRAL POST OFFICE,
SAN JUAN, MM, 1500

- comprehensive resumé
- records of grades
- 2x2 or 1 ½ x 1 ½ ID picture

COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The CBRMP is a government project under the Department of Finance with financing assistance from the World Bank. It seeks to pump-prime and enhance the capacities of LGUs in Regions 5, 7, 8 and 13 to manage their natural resources and rural development concerns. The project invites qualified applicants for the following vacant positions:

1 Marketing and Enterprise Development Specialist (Central Office)

- BS Agricultural Business, Marketing or Business Marketing (master's degree in related fields is an advantage)
- Extensive experience working in local or foreign-assisted community-driven rural development projects with strong livelihood enterprise development components
- Substantial experience in rural marketing and enterprise development
- Strong community organizing, communication, research and report-writing skills
- Experience in conducting capacity-building training with rural communities
- Willing and able to travel to remote areas in Regions 5, 7, 8 and 13 (Visayan literacy an advantage)
- Competence in Microsoft applications (Word, Excel and PowerPoint) and use of the Internet

4 Technical Assistants for M&E (Central Office)

Rural Infrastructure and Procurement

- Licensed Civil Engineer
- At least 3 years experience in development and implementation of M&E systems
- Extensive experience working in development-oriented/foreign-assisted projects
- Working knowledge on database management

Livelihood

- BS Economics, Agricultural Economics, Agri-Business or related courses
- At least 3 years experience in development and implementation of M&E Systems
- Extensive experience working in development-oriented/foreign-assisted projects
- Working knowledge on database management

Aquatic Resources

- BS Marine Science, Marine Biology, Fisheries or related courses
- At least 3 years experience in development and implementation of M&E Systems
- Extensive experience working in development-oriented/foreign-assisted projects
- Working knowledge on database management

Information Management

- BS Statistics, Economics, Agricultural Economics, Agri-Business or related courses
- At least 3 years experience in development and implementation of M&E Systems
- Work experience in development oriented/foreign-assisted projects
- Working knowledge on database management

2 Procurement Specialists (1 for Central office; 1 for Region 7)

- BS Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environmental Science, Community Development, Commerce, Civil Engineering, or related courses
- At least 5 years experience in procurement and contracting works, preferably in development-oriented and foreign-assisted projects
- Computer literate (working knowledge on database is in advantage)

Candidates for the positions must be good team players willing and able to travel to remote upland and coastal areas, and can work beyond office hours with minimum supervision. Send letter of application, resumé, transcript of records, and 2x2 picture on or before 16 April 2004 to:

The Project Director
Community Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP)
7th Floor, EDPC Building, BSP Complex
Roxas Boulevard, Manila

KMBI

A Christian development organization engaged in Microfinance & Business Development Services needs the following staff for its expansion in Calabarzon area (Sta. Cruz, San Pablo, Calamba, Batangas, Quezon), Caraga Region (Butuan, Surigao, Agusan), Bicol & Southern Mindanao areas.

Finance Officer

- Male/Female, a graduate of Accountancy
- Values driven, diligent worker & team leader
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/Mindanao
- With 3-5 years supervisory experience
- Exceptionally adept with all facets of Finance & Accounting, preferably a CPA

Business Devt. Services/Transformation Associate

- Male/Female, a graduate of any 4-year course
- Values driven, diligent worker & team player
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/Mindanao
- With 1-2 years exp. in community organizing
- Innovative, people oriented and motivator
- An active Christian

Audit Assistants/Associates

- Male/Female, a graduate of Accountancy
- Values driven, diligent worker & team-player
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/Mindanao
- With 1-2 years auditing experience

Accounting Associates

- Male/Female, a graduate of Accountancy
- Values driven, diligent worker & team-player
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/Mindanao
- With advanced branch to branch/head office accounting background

Program Assistants

- Male/Female, graduate of any business/social science course
- Values driven, diligent and people oriented
- Willing to accept field work assignment anywhere in Luzon/Mindanao

Driver/Messenger

- Male
- At least 21 years old and a high school graduate
- Responsible, reliable and knows how to troubleshoot
- Has strong family values, of good moral character and an active Christian

As these are urgent requirements, interested applicants are encouraged to personally submit their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture at the HRD Dept. KMBI Head Office, #12 KMBI Bldg., San Francisco St., Karuhatan, Valenzuela City or email at kmbi@skyinet.net or m_orodio@yahoo.com

Telephone Numbers: 291-1484-85; Fax No: 292-2441

We offer above minimum salary rates, Php1-M Accident Insurance Coverage, Health Benefit, Rice Allowance, and Incentive Package on top of the statutory benefits, plus a chance to travel locally and international

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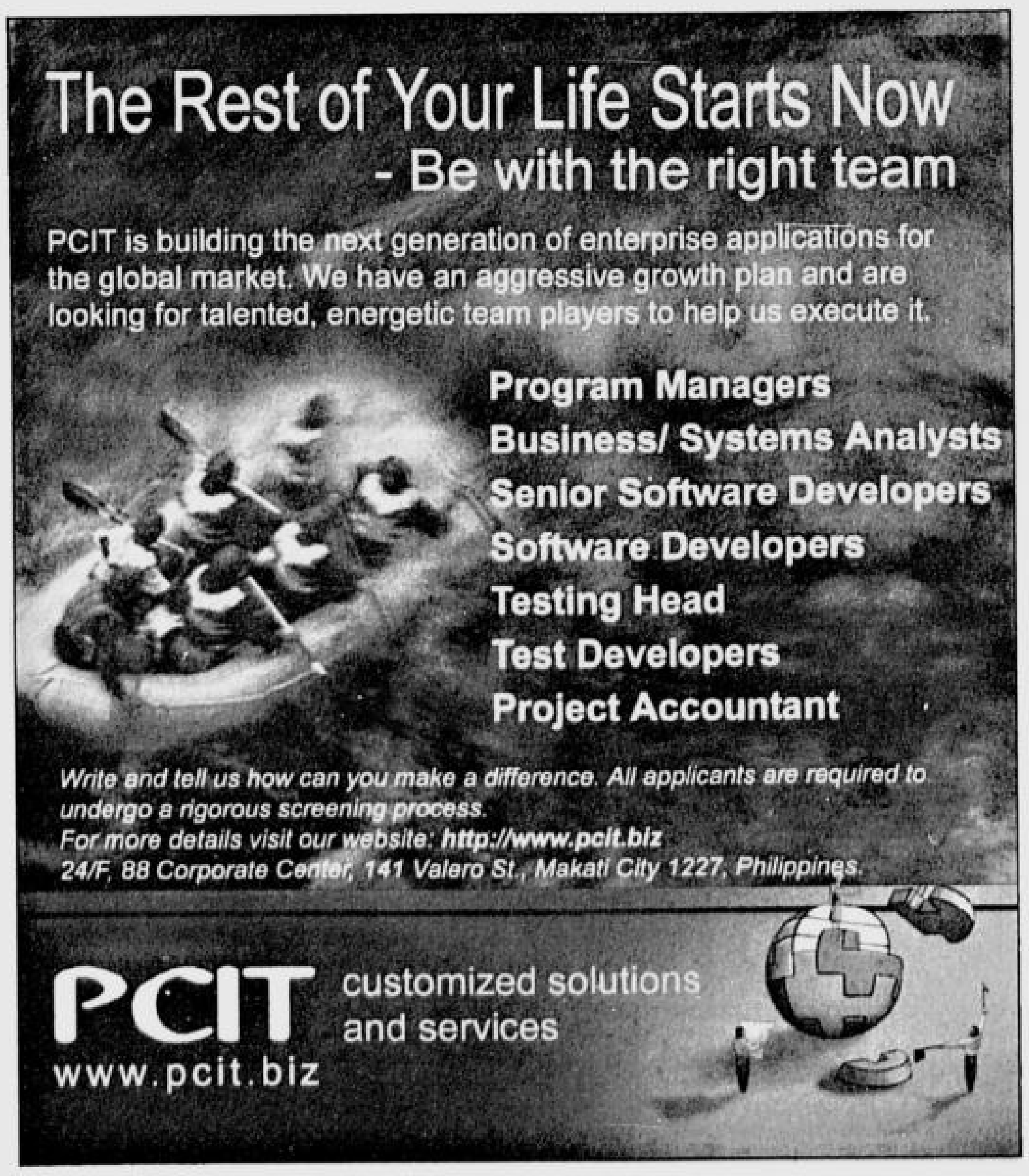

The Rest of Your Life Starts Now
- Be with the right team

PCIT is building the next generation of enterprise applications for the global market. We have an aggressive growth plan and are looking for talented, energetic team players to help us execute it.

Program Managers
Business/ Systems Analysts
Senior Software Developers
Software Developers
Testing Head
Test Developers
Project Accountant

Write and tell us how can you make a difference. All applicants are required to undergo a rigorous screening process.
*For more details visit our website: **http://www.pcit.biz***
24/F, 88 Corporate Center, 141 Valero St., Makati City 1227, Philippines.

PCIT customized solutions and services
www.pcit.biz

Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific
ADB Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Legal and Administrative Officer

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to Head, Policy and Recruitment Planning Unit.

Description of Responsibilities

The position is primarily responsible for assisting the Senior Legal and Administrative Officer in providing legal support and advice to Budget, Personnel and Management Systems Department (BPMSD) and Management on institutional and administrative issues; to assist in developing and writing case materials on disciplinary, Administrative Review, Further Administrative Review, Appeals and Administrative Tribunal cases, in consultation with concerned BPMSD Director and staff, and/or concerned divisional director and performing other related administrative duties. The position is specifically responsible for:

Grievance, Appeals and Tribunal Cases

- providing advice on established ADB practices and legal backgrounds to Human Resources Division (BPHR)/BPMSD and concerned divisional manager and assisting in overall coordination of grievances and Administrative Tribunal cases in consultation/coordination with the Senior Legal and Administrative Officer/Office of the General Counsel (OGC);
- assisting in preparing initial draft of responses from Director, BPHR, concerned divisional director, and Director General, BPMSD, in cases at the Administrative Review, Further Administrative Review and Appeals Committee levels;
- assisting in the preparation of memoranda and other documents which may have legal implications;
- assisting in development and writing of case materials (e.g. memoranda) on employment and human resource related issues, recommending solutions which do not involve confrontation or conflict, usually under considerable time constraints;
- assisting in updating and maintaining the bi-monthly monitor system of all ongoing disciplinary, Administrative Review, Further Administrative Review, Appeals and Tribunal cases in coordination with the Senior Legal and Administrative Officer/OGC and providing timely feedback to BPMSD;
- representing ADB in cases before the Appeals Committee and courts in coordination with OGC;

Documentation

- creating and maintaining files for staff cases, including the preparation of "fact folders" containing all documentation relevant to specific cases;

Administrative Manual

- assisting in reviewing sections of Administrative Manuals (Administrative Orders and Circulars) that require changes, preparing draft revisions in consultation with the Senior Legal and Administrative Officer/OGC, updating the manual including the electronic data on Lotus Notes based on approved version, and maintaining documentation relating to any changes;

Manual of Resident Missions (RM)/ Representative Offices (RO):

- assisting in preparation, maintenance, update and issuance of the RM/RO Manual by reviewing draft contents and consolidating inputs/comments from RMs/ROs and concerned ADB department/offices.

Training

- providing inputs in developing training programs on legal issues including appropriate performance feedback for directors and other staff;

Selection Criteria

- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level;
- A Bachelor's degree in law, preferably at masters level and member of the Bar;
- At least 5 years relevant labor law experience in a multinational corporation's legal section or law firm or other relevant experience, in working on legal aspects of labor law in an international organization;
- Excellent command of written and spoken English; excellent analytical skills and attention to details; basic computer skills; and
- Ability to manage time to handle heavy workloads involving multiple projects usually under extreme time pressure; ability to work with OGC lawyers and other senior ADB staff.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers and administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-N004-054(4)-BPHR** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address. CS-jobs@adb.org by 16 April 2004

Human Resources Division,
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific
ADB Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Travel Officer

Reporting Arrangements

The position directly reports to Head, Travel, OAGS-TR.

Description of Responsibilities

The position is primarily responsible for ensuring the efficient processing of travel documents, computation of travel entitlements/costs, formulation and dissemination of travel policies and procedures as well as monitoring of in-plant travel agency.

The position is specifically responsible for:

- ensuring the smooth and efficient processing of business and non-business travel documents by reviewing and certifying the accuracy of Mission Authorization Request (MAR) and Travel Request Authorization (TRA) before endorsing them for final approval;
- making sure all supporting documents are submitted before approval of release of tickets and coordinating with appropriate staff to obtain all necessary documentation and clearances;
- ensuring the cost effectiveness of business and non-business travel arrangements by reviewing itineraries and computed entitlements such as airfare, travel allowances, routing, air cargo/baggage entitlement and other travel-related entitlements, and generating cash advances;
- providing support in enhancing and updating ADB's travel policies and procedures by conducting periodic reviews of such policies and procedures and supervising their dissemination to ADB staff;
- ensuring the smooth and efficient performance of the in-plant travel agency by monitoring the day-to-day operations and performance of the agency under the terms of their contract with ADB, providing support in promptly solving travel problems, and overseeing the timely submission of periodic reports;
- coordinating with in-plant agency officers on any problems encountered as well as reviewing the accuracy of agency invoices before endorsement for final approval; and
- performing other duties as may be assigned by the position's immediate supervisor and/or director.

Selection Criteria

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- a bachelor's degree;
- at least eight years travel industry experience with five years at supervisory/managerial level;
- in-depth knowledge and understanding of policies, guidelines, procedures, and regulations prevalent in multilateral institutions regarding business and non-business travels;
- working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel and MS Powerpoint;
- expertise in airfare computations and itinerary preparations; and
- comprehensive knowledge of airline and travel agency rules and travel related practices.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers and administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-N004-027(3)-OAGS-TR** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address CS-jobs@adb.org by 16 April 2004

Human Resources Division,
Asian Development Bank
PO Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Export Company requires for
IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT an

INTERIOR DESIGNER

with experience in home accessories and decorations, floral displays, plant arrangements, indoor landscaping, weddings and xmas displays with an eye for color and creative ideas.

Pls. call 8991930 or 8708389
and look for Beth or Jane.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SALES EXECUTIVE

- Male or Female, below 35 years old
- Graduate of 4-year course with at least 2 years sales experience preferably on Industrial Products
- Conversant in English. Self-motivated

Please bring or send your Resumé, Transcript of Records, NBI clearance and recent 1x1 photo to

THERMO ENGINEERING SUPPLY CORP.
#2 A.M. De Leon Street, Santolan, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 645-5441 to 45, 681-7213 to 15
E-mail: thermo@info.com.ph

ONE PLANET SPA & FITNESS

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

- 18-30 yrs. Old, Male / Female
- Good moral character, work ethics and pleasing personality
- Good oral communication skills
- SALES experience is a MUST

Interested applicants may submit their resumé to:
103 ELT Bldg., 3/F J. Abad
cor. Lopez Jaena St., San Juan, MM
7232484 / 85

GRAPHIC ARTISTS

pref. Fresh graduates
- willing to be trained in a Brand Activation / Marketing firm
Graduate of BFA (pref. from UP or UST)
Major in Advtg. or Vis. Comm.
- Computer literate in Photoshop
Great eye for design
Pls. call Annette for a scheduled exam & interview until Apr. 6, 2004 at ActMedia Philippines, Inc. at [illegible]

Hotel
PonteFino
BATANGAS CITY

We are the newest premiere business hotel in Batangas City.
We have career opportunities for the following positions:

MARKETING MANAGERS
(Batangas-Based/Manila-based)

- Sales / marketing-oriented; preferably with background in events planning and coordination.
- Capable of executing projects
- Young, aggressive, personable, stylish, creative, enjoys outdoors
- Highly organized
- Male or female; below 40 years old

SALES EXECUTIVE
(Manila-based)

- With a marketing or business-related degree.
- Has hotel sales experience; knows field work; with established network of clients.
- Eloquent; highly-personable; preferably female

MARKETING ASSISTANT
(Manila-based)

- With a marketing or business-related degree
- Has hotel marketing experience; loves field work
- Crative; focused
- Male or female; not more than 30 years old

FRONT OFFICE AGENTS
(Batangas-based)

- Adept a handling guest inquiries; fresh graduates are welcome to apply.
- Service oriented; goes an extra mile to pamper the guests.
- With excellent people and communication skills.
- Preferably with a valid driver's license.
- Male; at least 5'8" tall; not more than 28 years old.

Interested applicants can bring or send their resumé (with ID picture) and application letter to:

Human Resource Department
Hotel Pontefino
Bgy. Gulod, Labac, Batangas City

or

HR Management Group
24th Flr., IBM Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City

Consultant gives tips on how to get hired

By Regina Galang Reyes

My TRABAHO

MY TRABAHO at dzRH interviewed Ludee Kudera, Managing Consultant of John Clements Consultants Inc. last Wednesday on how applicants can prepare for job hunting. John Clements is one of the largest consulting firms in the Philippines with its core businesses in recruitment and training. Here is a summary of the interview (translated from Tagalog):

My Trabaho: From all your clients, what positions are most in demand?

Ludee Kudera: : For now, we have many clients looking for call center personnel.

My Trabaho: So that industry still has the most number of job vacancies?

Kudera: Yes, that's true.

My Trabaho: I think yesterday, Atty. Laguesma and I interviewed someone who said that there was a need for about 30,000 call center representatives, all to be hired here in the Philippines.

Kudera: We also have vacancies in manufacturing firms on the level of production worker. For these positions, we hire college graduates.

My Trabaho: What is the process that you use in selecting applicants? Where does this start?

Kudera: We in John Clements conduct regular sourcing activities aside from looking at our talent bank. We need to do this because of the volume of the requirements for call center agents and production workers. We place job ads, announcements in municipalities, radio ads. From there, we select those who will qualify for the interview. Our interviews could be done on site, through phone or in our offices. After the interview, they will undergo testing. Then, we match them to where they will qualify based on the requirements of our clients.

My Trabaho: So you have a talent pool? For example, there are companies looking for applicants, then, you can just get the qualified candidates from your pool?

Kudera: Yes.

My Trabaho: Which means, for example, those listening right now who already have jobs but are thinking of looking for better jobs can just submit their resumes to your company? Anytime, even if there are no ads for the positions they want?

Kudera: Yes, they can.

My Trabaho: Now, that's nice! So, what kind of tests do you administer to applicants? How can they prepare for these tests?

Kudera: We just have IQ and personality tests, so basic knowledge. Our testing is computerized.

My Trabaho: How about EQ (emotional intelligence)? Which is given more weight—IQ or EQ?

Kudera: We give equal weight to IQ and EQ. But it also depends on the requirements of our clients. For example, we look at personality for call center agents. In general, we look for college graduates. They stand a better chance if they already have work experience and can communicate well in English.

My Trabaho: So, what kind of applicant impresses you? Who, when at first glance, you can already say, "This person passes!"

Kudera: Perhaps, not just the physical appearance. But it is also important that they dress well and appropriately for the interview and have a corporate look.

My Trabaho: I would like to ask you, because it was discussed earlier in the show, how about male applicants who sport unusual hairstyles? Will this affect their chances to get hired?

Kudera: Perhaps, (hairstyle) would be on the last of our list. It also depends on the position. For example, in call centers, they are not that strict on physical appearance. But if the position is office-based and the company is rather conservative, we have to match the personality of the applicant to the company.

My Trabaho: How about good-looking applicants?

Kudera: We still have to check his or her qualifications. He or she might just have the looks but not the required qualifications.

My Trabaho: What are the programs now of John Clements that can help job seekers?

Kudera: We are conducting many job fairs now. In fact, every day, there's a job fair in John Clements. Job seekers can go to our office at the basement of LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. They can just walk in and there will be people to attend to them. By the way, we also have free seminars for those job seekers interested to become call center agents. For more information they can 884-1227 up to 32 or visit our web site at www.johnclements.com.

KUDERA with 'My Trabaho' program host Atty. Benny Laguesma

PHOTOS BY R. G. REYES

KUDERA (L) with Janina Paula Crisostomo, John Clements supervising sales consultant

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Fast food chain serves working students a balanced school-work life

By Candy G. Villanueva

> *Work has molded working students into self-sufficient, independent, responsible and result-oriented individuals.*

SOMEDAY, Vincent would like to work for a prestigious accounting firm. But for now, he'd like to concentrate on passing the CPA board. Reynold, on the other hand, would like to run his own business. He envisions himself as an owner of a computer shop or even a chain of computer shops. But for now, Vincent, Reynold and hundreds of other McDonald's crewmembers concentrate on school while frying burger patties.

Vincent Cabotaje and Reynold Landicho are working students of McDonald's fast food chain. Like many of McDonald's crewmembers, Vincent and Reynold still excel in school in spite of the time they spend at work. These top performers are the perfect examples that show that school and work could actually compliment each other.

Helping students

Everyday, hundreds of young adults fall in line at fast food counters for burgers and fries. On the other side, hundreds of young hopefuls line the counter to serve these same burgers and fries. Some of these young adults do it for the experience. Most of them do it to augment their limited finances so that they can afford to go to school. Reveals Reynold, "As a self-supporting student, McDonald's has helped me finance my studies," With the money he earns, he is also able to help his parents.

McDonald's, a well-known name the fast food industry, answers to the call of less privileged youth who wish to go to school. "We encourage them to stay in school, graduate and have a career. We instill the value of education. It is important in helping them grow as a person and it is their foundation," claims Hector Jaraza, McDonald's HR Director. "We want their growth to start with McDonald's. We want them to continuously seek growth."

According to Jaraza, McDonald's is constantly thinking of ways to help the youth. With their aim to keep kids in school, they think of incentives and rewards for student crew members. Part of these incentives includes financial assistance. Because education is a priority, McDonald's also try to be flexible with the working students' schedules.

Balancing act

Being a working student is a hard balancing act to follow. But many like Vincent and Reynold seemed to have pulled it off exceptionally. Although tough at first, it all boils down to discipline and determination. Vincent, a UE Scholar, says the juggling trick relies greatly on mastering the art of time management. "Though sometimes your work is compromised by your studies and vice versa, you have to know your priorities," he adds.

And when it comes to priorities, McDonald's always puts education ahead. Putting value on education, Restaurant Managers try to adjust to the students' schedule. Shifts are based on availability. According to the HR Director, McDonald's goes even as far as monitoring the crew's schedule to be able to give them time and space for study. In spite of these accommodations, being a working student still takes its toll on these young minds at times. How do they cope? "It was hard at first, *pero nasanay na rin ako* but I later got used to it," admits Reynold, a scholar from San Pablo Colleges.

It is doubly hard for these two achievers because aside from work and the usual school responsibilities, they have to maintain above average performance because they are scholars. A monumental task it seems for somebody so young but Reynold shrugs it off and says, "It's all about sacrifice in terms of your priorities in life."

Play and work

Working students Reynold Landicho (L), Vincent Cabotaje (R) with Hector Jaraza, McDonald'sHR Director (center).

PHOTO BY RUDY ESPERAS

But it is not all work. Home to the friendly clown with red oversized boots, McDonald's believes in the philosophy of staying young at least at heart and spirit. It is because of this philosophy that McDonald's gives the employees avenues for fun and creativity.

Reynold claims that his job entitles him to meet different people of different walks of life. A crewmember of McDonald's Petron South, Reynold also enjoys being able to work with a young and spirited team. In fact, according to most of them, the atmosphere is just like being in a school campus with bright red and yellow uniforms.

Vincent kids it's the food he's after. But perhaps it was half meant. Almost every growing teenager lives on fries and sundaes most of the time. On a serious note, Vincent claims it's the life lessons that he has gained. "Mcdo teaches me to be mature and responsible. It builds confidence and skills in mingling with all types of people," explains Vincent, a crewmember from the QA Banaue branch of McDonald's. "It gives us a sense of accomplishment, it is like an invisible medal for a job well done."

Being on their feet for hours, running around cleaning after customers and taking orders all day would sometimes leave these working students too tired for school. "It affects productivity and we can sometimes be absent-minded in school due to tiredness and lack of sleep," shares Vincent. But the time pressure and the demands of the work have produced the best in these young people. The work has molded them into self-sufficient, independent, responsible and result-oriented individuals.

While most young people spend their days off from school wasting away in malls and computer gaming stations, the working students of McDonald's are applying the theories they learned in school. Growing with McDonald's, these young achievers have learned the value of perseverance, hard work and sacrifice at a very young age.

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- coordinates with IT Department the continued improvement of the General Ledger (GL) system to assist users in better analyzing and controlling their concerned accounts;
- computes and records member countries obligations by reference to the subscribed share capital of each member paid in national currencies and the movement in respective foreign exchanges;
- verifies and monitors the proprietary of all accounts under various funds administered by ADB;
- assists in the review of and makes sound proposals in the procedures and guidelines to be followed ADB-wide to ensure that GL related accounting and administrative functions are consistently applied to and complied with;
- assists in the planning for and provides necessary training to HQ staff in using the GL inquiry functions;
- coordinates and provides required information to various GL users in accordance with established procedures; and
- performs any other assignments as required.

Selection Criteria

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level;
- a bachelor's degree in business administration, major in Accounting; a CPA qualification;
- at least five years experience in accounting under a large computerized accounting environment (preferably Oracle application) with some supervisory role;
- proficiency with Oracle applications, MS Excel applications, and accounting related software, and in the use of computer databases to extract information, and to generate reports;
- good understanding of general accounting concepts and principles, and the application thereof;
- good understanding of accounting policies and practices, as well as general policies, procedures, guidelines and reporting requirements prevalent in multilateral institutions;
- excellent oral and written skills in English, especially, ability to document workpapers in a logical and concise format; .
- good understanding of the interactions between different work areas and relevant work flows and their purpose, as well as business knowledge of relevant areas in a multilateral institution;
- analytical, systematic and strong numerical skills and great attention to detail;
- proven supervisory and interpersonal skills and ability to provide feedback to subordinates; and
- ability to organize, prioritize, plan and coordinate schedules in order to meet deadlines.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its (national officers or administrative staff) locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS04-008(4)-CTAC-FRA** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on **http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp** to e-mail address: **CS-jobs@adb.org** by **13 April 2004**.

Human Resources Division,
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

JOB Market

MESSAGE SENT

PROMO MECHANICS:

- Promo period is from February 29 - April 24, 2004
- Promo is open to all Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart and Talk N Text subscribers.
- 5 multiple choice questions will be published every Sunday in the JOB MARKET Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
- TO JOIN and REGISTER: text TQ JOIN <game code><question number> <letter of answer> complete name/complete address/sex(M or F)/age and send to 2966 for Globe and Touch Mobile or 3996 for Smart and Talk N Text.
- After the registration the system will send a confirmation message. After which, a participant may answer the succeeding questions using this format: TQ <game code><question number><letter of answer>.
- A confirmation message will be sent after receipt of every answer.
- Each set of questions will have a different game code.
- All questions will be taken from the job placements and ads at the JOB MARKET Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
- Each correct answer will earn the participant the corresponding number of raffle entries.
- The number of raffle entries will vary depending on the question answered.
- Once a question in answered correctly, the system will no longer accept any answer for the same question from the same texter.
- A participant who gets to answer all five (5) questions of the week correctly will earn an additional ten (10) raffle entries.
- Entries will only be valid for a specific week and the other weeks will have a different set of entries.
- Answers will be accepted from 12:00 AM Sunday until 11:59 PM of Saturday.
- The cost of sending a text message to this promo is P 2.50 for post-paid and pre-paid subscribers.
- The prize is P 1,000.00 worth of Gift Certificate from David's Salon.
- There will be four (4) weekly winners and eight (8) raffle draws.
- A total of thirty two (32) winners for the duration of the promo.
- Deadline of submission of entries will be at 11:59 PM every Saturday.
- Cellphone numbers and names of participants will be electronically drawn every Monday, 11.00 AM at Buy N' Text office at 88 JS Galsano Bldg., Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City under the supervision of a DTI Representative.
- A participant can only win once per draw.
- All names of weekly winners will be published in the next issue of JOB MARKET Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
- Prizes will be hand-delivered to the winner.
- Prizes for this promo are tax-free.
- Employees of the Globe Telecommunications, Inc., Smart Telecommunications, Inc., Philippine Daily Inquirer and Buy N' Text Corporation and its agencies as well as relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Fourth weekly WINNERS of Job Market Text Quiz

Joanamel B. Lituañas of San Pedro, Laguna
Ritz D. Panzo of Novaliches QC
Cherry C. Librando of Baguio City
Sharon B. Escarlan Dasmarinas, Cavite

... and get the chance to win gift certificates from David's Salon!

TO JOIN:

First time participants must have to register by answering the question following this format:

TQ JOIN *<game code><question number><letter of answer> complete name/complete address/sex(M or F)/ age*

Ex: TQ JOIN A1a Rowie A. Balza/143 Empire St. San Lorenzo Village, Makati City/F/22

send to 2966 (Globe and Touch Mobile) or 3996 (Smart and Talk N Text).

After the registration, you may answer the remaining questions using this format:

TQ *<game code><question number><letter of answer>*

Ex: TQ A1c

send to 2966 (Globe and Touch Mobile) or 3996 (Smart and Talk N Text)

Game Code: P

1. Do you have a BIG Appetite for Money? Come to ____.
a. Semicon Services, Inc.
b. Jollibee Foods Corp.
c. Image Analysis, Inc.
d. AIG-Philam

2. THE ASIA FOUNDATION is in need of a ____.
a. Financial Management Assistant
b. Strategic Marketing Manager
c. IT Supervisor
d. Accounting Clerk

3. Which department of DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY DASMARIÑAS is looking for a nurse & accounting clerk?
a. Physical Education Dept.
b. Human Resources Development Office
c. College of Economics - Dean's Office
d. Administration Dept.

4. DUTY FREE PHILS. requires all applicants to submit a printed resumé, 1 pc. 2x2 picture, photocopy of NBI Clearance, Birth Certificate & ____.
a. Photocopy of College Diploma
b. Transcript of Records
c. Character Reference
d. Photocopy of SSS Identification Card

5. HCCA INT'L & POEA will bring nurses to Arizona, New York, Texas, South Carolina & ____.
a. Georgia
b. California
c. North Carolina
d. Alabama

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3401 Series of 2003

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e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.
Sunday PEOPLE at WORK
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

How do you clear clutter out of your life?

DEAR WW: I just spent 20 minutes looking for a piece of paper on my desk. Even I have to admit it's a mess. How can I get some control over the clutter in my life?

There must be a desk under there somewhere

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

When you've flown a million and a half miles, you see a lot of strange things. And some of them leave a funny taste in your mouth. For instance, the habit of most airlines to put a bag of coffee in the rest rooms when it gets ... too fragrant. It's been enough to make me a committed tea drinker on all flights.

Well, even coffee addicts would have to admit that some things need covering up. But desk clutter is not one of them. When it comes to your desk, you need to get at the source and fix it. Below are some tips you can try each time you get a new piece of paper. For more, check out Harriet Schechter's book, "Conquering Chaos at Work" (Fireside, 2000).

Act! The first, the classic, the most boring ... the "gee, I'm-sorry, -but-I've-got-to-say-it" piece of advice: act on each piece of paper as soon as you look at: put it in a file, in the trash, in someone else's inbox ... Do whatever it requires so you can legitimately get it off your desk.

Delegate! Do you really need to act on this paper—or is there someone else who could handle it more efficiently?

Prioritize! Try creating a three-tier filing system on your desk: 1.) Urgent; 2.) Next two weeks; 3.) Long-term. Then, on your calendar, block out one hour, three days each week for dealing with the "number one" stuff, one morning every other week for the "number two" stuff, and one hour a week for "number three."

Organize! If you're really committed to keeping piles on your desk, at least organize your piles so you know where to find things. Get five or six trays and label them: invoices, letters to answer, etc. and make sure each new item goes in the right tray. Then at least you'll know where that missing paper is.

Network! Is there a person who knows this information—or where to find it? If you can deal with a person, you don't need the paper. Chuck it!

Refile! Half the time we get papers off our desk we can't find them when we need them. Either we've got too few files—each one fat as the Sunday newspaper, or so many files it would take a detective to locate the proper one. Starting now, rethink your filing system. Ask yourself: where would I think to look for this when I need it? Then, keep the number of files as small as possible.

With all my travels, I've seen some pretty big messes. But there is no mess worse than the ones we create for ourselves. Have a cup of coffee and think it over.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: How would you describe your desk right now?

—Clean as a whistle, 19.8%

—Desk? There's a desk under here? 21%

—Organized chaos, 59.1%

(*Mr. Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.).

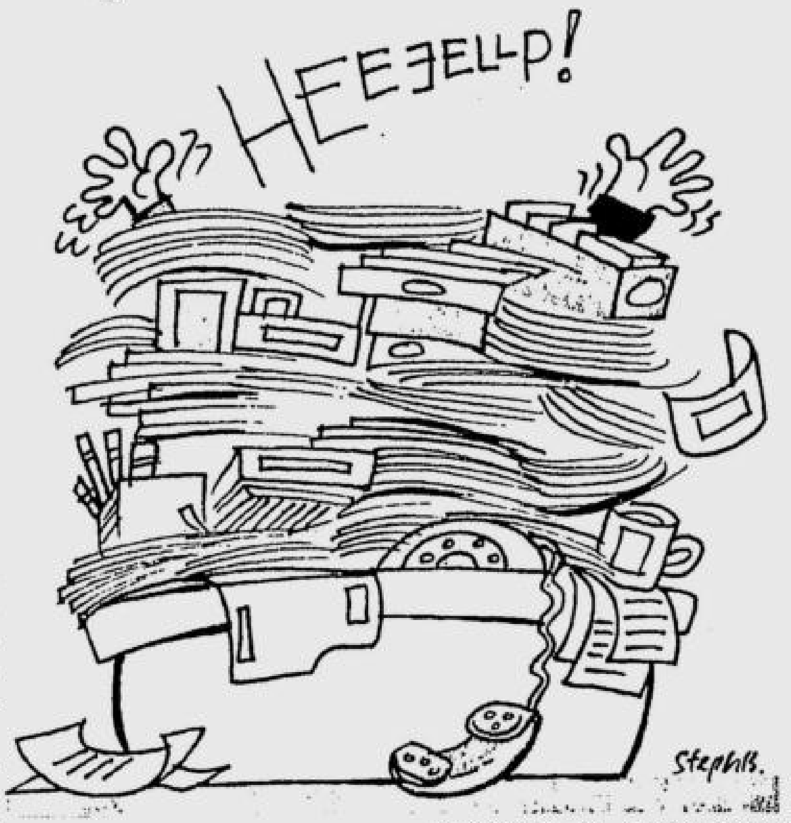


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

'Are job fairs helpful to job seekers?'

By Tita D. Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I OFTEN see ads about job fairs in newspapers. Can you please tell me how a career fair will benefit a job seeker like me? Also, when is being overzealous bad? A colleague of mine told me that I tend to be overzealous when I want a project really badly.

How do I go about finding jobs in a certain place? I want to work in Baguio but I have no idea if there is a job there that meets my qualifications. I recently applied for a job in a spa in Boracay. I did not get the job. The position I applied for was lower than the last one I had. Did this seem dubious? When the owner asked me why I wanted the job, I said I would like to work near the beach and one of my dreams is to own a house in Boracay. Is it all right to tell these kinds of things to your prospective employer?

Lastly, I read in an article that before you look for a job in Manila, better look around in your province first. How do I go about it? Is it still okay to change careers at the age of 37?

Curious Questions

Thank you for your letter. Let me start with discussing job fairs. Job fairs are events where the recruitment officers of companies and job seekers meet. Typically, companies openly share the job vacancies and specifications for jobs inviting candidates. If you attend a job fair, get ready with copies of your resume. Make sure your resume stands out in the pile of application forms, with a presentable and pleasing photograph, neatly encoded without misspelling and typographical errors.

If you intend to go to the fair, scan the companies and understand their requirements. Then, go home and tailor fit your resume to fit their needs. Typically, hundreds of people go to job fairs. So, reduce your expectations, know that you will compete with many other people.

How do you go about finding jobs in certain places like Baguio? If I were you, I would go on a prolonged visit and experience how it is to actually live in the place. Go and visit your local representative of the Department of Trade and Industry or Technical Education Skills Development Authority (Tesda). They would have knowledge of the industries and businesses in the locality. They may even be able to tell you what are the sectors enjoying growth in jobs.

Still the best way to find jobs is by asking your friends and relatives for referrals. Or visit companies in the area, go to the office of human resources, inquire about vacancies and drop your resume.

On the question on being overzealous, I think anything that is overdone is not good. For me personally, I like interviewing people who show high interest, energy and enthusiasm, but would not consider pushy or abrasive applicants. In the work setting, it is important to project yourself a team player rather than a superstar. Most jobs today require excellent teamwork to achieve great results.

You can make a career change at any time in your life. But if you are financially challenged, think and act carefully and purposively. Make sure before you file that letter of resignation that you have the suitable "job of your dreams" contract sealed.

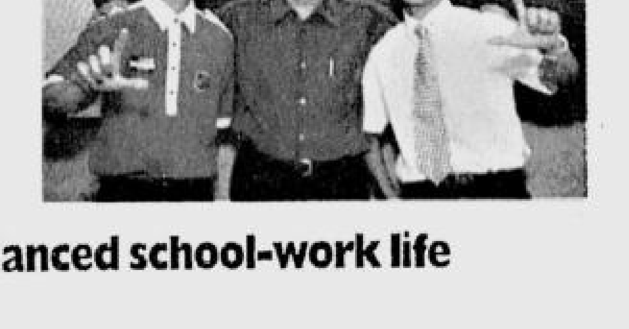
How candid should you be in an interview? It depends on the culture of the company. When you go to an interview with a company, you will notice immediately whether people have a formal or more informal company culture. But if you are not sure, better take the safe side. Future employers want future employees who show seriousness and conviction about the jobs they are applying for, in addition to the right skills and competencies. While you want to work near the beach and this is a candid statement, it may cause the interviewer to think that you may have a "vacation view" to work. With that, I wish you all the best!

(*Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through e-mail to* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902.*)

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

What's inside *My*TRABAHO

Consultant gives tips on how to get hired PAGE K6



Fast food chain serves working students a balanced school-work life PAGE K8

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

The Passion of Jesus gives meaning to work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

THE HOLY WEEK, which begins today, Palm (Passion) Sunday, brings to many of us, among other things, a most welcome break from oppressive work. Many workers would bless these holy days, which give them the needed respite from their backbreaking jobs. However, these sacred days likewise give the workers the opportunity to meditate on the Passion of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and understand the greater meaning of our lot—to work most of our life.

Many of us have to work, not only for our own needs but also for the needs of our beloved ones. We, who might sometimes feel "crucified" to our work even if we toil for the sustenance of our very own family, find company in Jesus who was condemned to die when his very own people furiously shouted, "Crucify him!" We would find our pain and sufferings in our daily toil nothing compared to the immense agony Jesus suffered as He carried His cross to Calvary, and as He was crucified and died on the cross. As we believe that we are saved by Christ's death on the cross, we feel that that those who depend on us are somehow saved—freed from hunger, ignorance and other human needs, by our "suffering and death" in our daily work.

As we take a break from work during this Holy Week, we could also remind ourselves that our work done in union with the Passion of Jesus—the sufferings and death of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection, becomes a "holy week"—sacred moments, which gives us graces for our very own sanctification. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

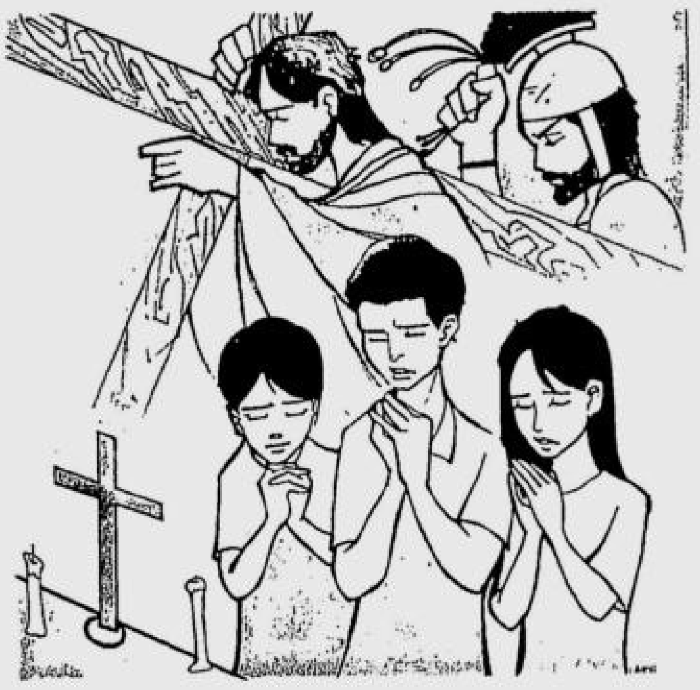


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel Lk. 23: 1-49

Again Pilate addressed them, still wishing to release Jesus, but they continued their shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit;" and when he had said this he breathed his last.

The 'Pontius Pilate' boss

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

RECALLING this episode in the Passion of Jesus, I get hung up imagining Pontius Pilate washing his hands. We Filipinos like labeling people we find abhorrent. *"Akala mo kung sinong Pontio Pilato!"* we exclaim about a boss who is officious or domineering. Whatever our knowledge is of the biblical Pontius Pilate, none of us would enjoy working under someone who fits our notion of a Pontio Pilato. But sad to say, it seems every soul is destined to be tried—at one time or the other in its life—in the experience of working under such a boss. What's he like? Simply put, he's the guy who washes his hands of accountability and condemns the innocent in order to keep himself in power.

If you haven't been under a Pontio Pilato clone in your workplace, be forewarned. If you're right now aching to be liberated from the clutches of such a creature, you can either: one, go look for another job that may give you the boss of your dreams; or, two, see your superior's hostility as a blessing coming from the Hand of God. (Yes, something like the friction that polishes a chunk of pure carbon into a magnificent diamond). The first seems an easy way out but in truth, you'll only be postponing your own growth, because in fleeing the Pontio Pilato clone you're only bound to meet more of his ilk until you learn the lesson life is trying to teach you.

The second appears to be a formidable cross to bear, but in reality it makes you a better Christian—in that seeing through your boss's crass exterior, you learn to forgive and to "love your enemy." I don't know what other rewards await you for choosing to do that, but one thing sure: when it's your turn to wield power, you will not be another Pontio Pilato. (*E-mail the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph)

sunday
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
magazine
April 4, 2004

Summer Reading
Issue

The Education of Agot

Back on TV, actress and singer Agot Isidro-Sandejas is enjoying a return to school and the company of her beloved books

By Ruel S. De Vera
Photographs by August dela Cruz

WHAT exactly is the most arresting thing about Agot Isidro-Sandejas?

Some would say it's the patrician features, tailor-made for ads, the profile that seduces the TV set. Others would point out her lean figure and great personal style, which makes her look good in anything—or makes anything look good on her. Maybe it's the dulcet tones that ignited her recording career, an uncomplicated, unaffected soprano. How about that smile, so incandescent it can stun a room into submission, the one

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Read Letter Days
by The SIM Staff, *p.3*

Pinoy Power
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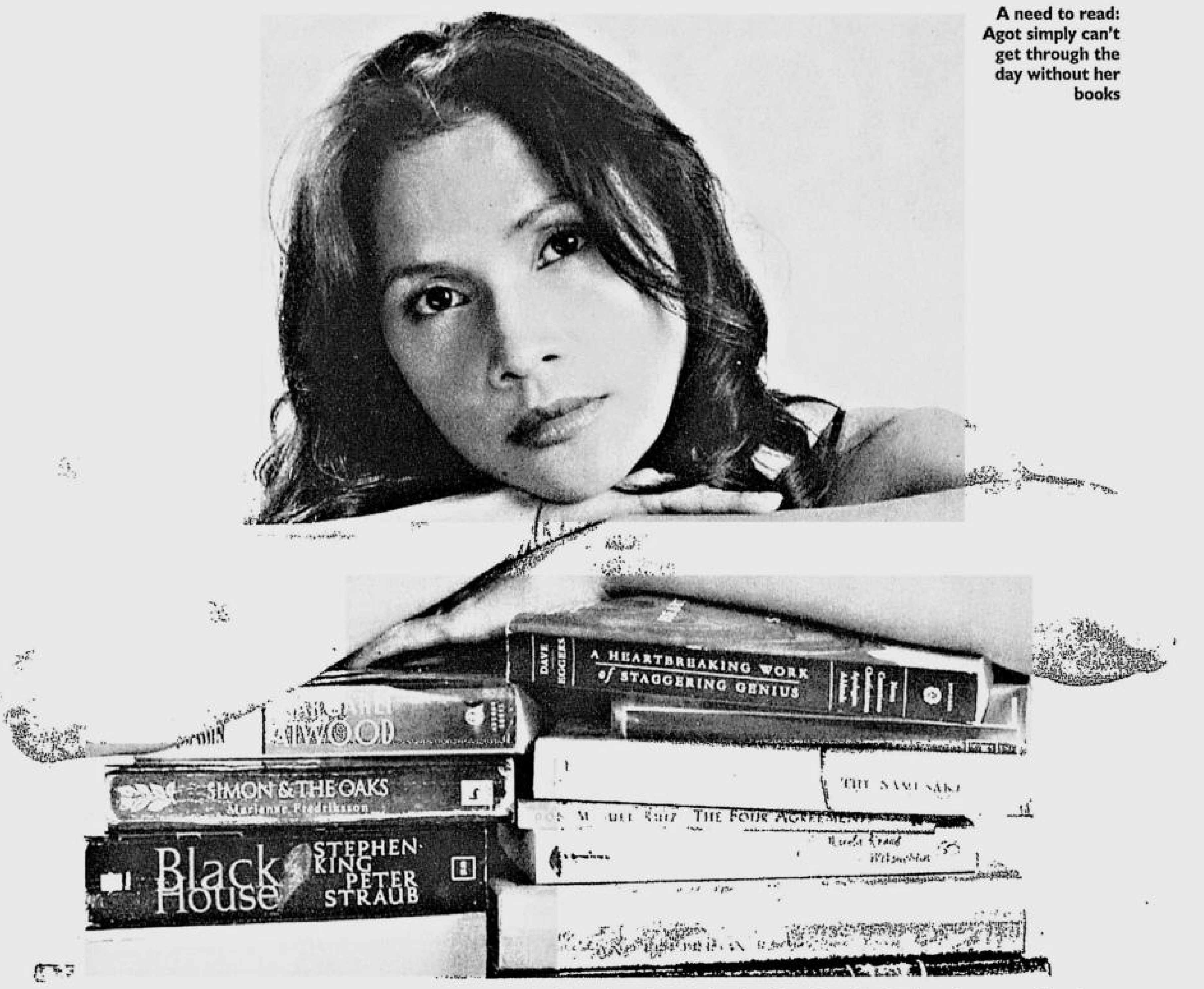
Agot

...from page 1



A need to read: Agot simply can't get through the day without her books

that's invited endless comparisons to Julia Roberts' own megawatt grin?

Maybe it's even her eyes: probing, intense and intelligent. It's the graceful self-assurance and the hunger for learning. It's everything. It's this gestalt which has always made Agot stand apart, beyond the made-for-TV gifts; a sense of something more, something different. "From the very beginning, show biz wasn't my life, it was always a job for me," the 37-year-old Agot says, explaining why she didn't seek ubiquity, taking care that her glow never grew into glare.

Ma. Margarita Amada "Agot" Fteha Isidro was born the fourth of six siblings to architect Jose Isidro and wife Erwarda Fteha (who is half Palestinian). She grew up in a house crowded with books, and read throughout her high school days in St. Scholastica's Academy Marikina and college at the University of the Philippines, earning her Interior Design degree in 1987. "When I was younger, I would read Hardy Boys, but not Nancy Drew," she remembered, avoiding the saccharine teenage romances and even diving into her mother's Erica Jong and Henry Miller books.

Agot the *artista*

Thanks to her musical sisters, she eventually wound up singing back-up for headliners like Sharon Cuneta, Vilma Santos and Pops Fernandez, among others, before becoming a headliner herself in the 1990s. "At the house, we kept fighting over the cars, so I thought the only time I can buy a car is when I really get a job, and *siguro* I can really make money as an *artista*," she recalls with a laugh. And so she joined show biz—and got that car.

After several TV shows (among them "Oki Doki Dok" and "Okatokat"), a reel of films (her favorite being *"May Minamahal")* and five albums (just try getting her bona fide hit "Everyday" out of your head), Agot became a popular, pretty and always elegant partisan of the entertainment industry. Yet she also made time to go abroad and study Fashion Buying and Merchandising at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology, and even studied dog-grooming (she adores dogs, particular her Chocolate Labrador Tyson). No armchair adventurer, Agot has also savored traveling and scuba-diving.

In fact, she met "Digital Tour" host Manuel "Manu" Sandejas after being set up by her sister on what she called a "dive date" in Anilao. Agot smiles at the memory: "I was in such a nasty mood then. The night before I was in Malate until two, and then we had to go out so early in the morning. I didn't really look at him until we were on our way home, and I said, '*Uy,* cute *pala siya.*'" Cute indeed: The extremely photogenic twosome tied the knot on October 7, 2000. Agot took time off from show biz to spend time with Manu, "trying to get pregnant, but it wasn't happening."

And though Agot continued to make guest appearances on TV, she's back on the tube on a regular basis as part of the cast of ABS-CBN's new telenovela "Marina," starring Claudine Barretto. Agot plays Atty. Sheila Corrales, who was originally a mermaid but was cursed by her mother, the evil Dugong (a heavily made-up Malu de Guzman) with feet and was rescued, eventually growing up human. She now shoots thrice a week in such seaswept locales as Calatagan and the Hundred Islands. Aside from helping Marina in the human world, Atty. Corrales also acts as a protector. She's thoroughly enjoying her return to show biz. "I had this long break and now, with 'Marina,' I'm working with friends," Agot says. She will also be kept busy on other fronts. Right now, she's in rehearsals for the Atlantis Productions musical "Baby," which stars Lea Salonga. But she's taken on something entirely different as well.

Back to school

Along with her return to the spotlit terrain of TV came the decision to return to school and earn a Master's degree. "When you're in show business, your brain rusts. *Talagang kinakalawang,"* she explains. "Your memory work is fantastic and you develop people skills, but that's it." Determined not to become a walking canard born of the movie machine, she found herself looking for something more substantial, something intellectually stimulating and new.

So in 2003, Agot enrolled in the Ateneo for her Master's degree in Communication and has been working at it since. "I studied so many things I didn't practice. I took dog-grooming, of all things. But I told myself I was going to be in this media business for a long time, so I wanted to take further studies along that line." Eschewing any dilettante tendencies, Agot enjoys being back in a college classroom, even if she had to take some undergrad units. "It was tough realizing that my classmates hadn't been born yet when I was growing up in the '70s, but I'm not the type *na matanda mag-isip* (who thinks like an old person)." With help from her niece and nephews (who were the age of Agot's classmates), she persevered. "*Kaya ko 'to, kakayanin ko 'to* (I can do this, I will do this)," Agot says with a guffaw.

Like her wish to study, books also made a similar comeback in her life, though that happened much earlier, after a break up, all the way in New York in 1989. "I had just broken up with my boyfriend from Manila, and I was so distraught," Agot says. "I was alone, it was just me and school." So she went over to Barnes & Noble and got her hands on some self-help books. It was "The Road Less Traveled" by M. Scott Peck that truly made a difference in her life at that time. "And that's how I started reading again." She likes books that make her think; another favorite, for example, is Rohinton Mistry's "A Fine Balance."

Booked for life

But it isn't all heavy stuff. Agot admits that there are some books she prepares herself for and works on to finish, such as the two aforementioned titles plus Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "Love in the Time of Cholera." And then there are books in between, transition tomes which are relatively easier to read, such as mainstream fiction by Patricia Cornwell and John Grisham. And though life as showbiz regular means nonstop running around from one thing to the next, Agot discovered that the long wait between scenes on the set allowed her ample time to catch up on her reading. Other colleagues who liked to read, like actress Carmina Villaroel, often join her in discussing their current tomes of choice during the breaks. She also gets to share books with close friends who are also into books, among them Girlie Rodis, Panjee Lopez and Monique Villongco. "We like books by, for example, Barbara Kingsolver and Anita Shreve."

Truth is, books have become a mainstay in her life, to the point that she can't sleep without them. Agot had a TV in her bedroom until she got married, but then Manu banished the boob tube from the room. "I agreed, but I had to have my books," Agot says resolutely. "I need my books." And just as she's back on the screen, she just might be looking to study beyond this degree. "Maybe, but not a Ph.D.," she says, shaking her head. "No! Maybe another degree, I don't know. I like studying. I like the learning process."

Then she flashes that dazzling smile and those rich eyes get just a bit more intense. Agot Isidro-Sandejas has never been afraid to take a different road. "Sometimes they want the formula, but I'm not like that. You just grow and develop into something else." ◘

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EASTERUPTION
Besides the traditional egg hunt and parlor games, Mandarin Oriental, Manila's Easteruption features cool experiments from the wacky geniuses of Mad Science, a Lego block-building contest, and other surprises and fun-filled activities that stimulate learning and creativity among kids. It will be held at the hotel's ballroom on April 11. For inquiries, call 750-8888 ext. 2401. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

How to Look at an Email Bride Sighing Hope of Love in an Internet Café

Because she is saying—you *think*—to her white
knight edging close to her young skin like an old lizard:
"I must not be bored sitting here
Waiting for you to do your dance on the keyboard."
So she does her tango, you *see*, alone in her docile seat,
A picture of sex sprung from some dirt kitchen
Of clapboard small towns to *hopes* of fantasies
Of snow—such that you cannot ignore how her color of earth
Presses close to his blonde locks, lazy now with streaks
Of gray. You *know* how her hope pines for
His craggy white body slipping into her sunkissed skin.
She is thinking, you *think*: never ask her about her silence
After the deed, something awkward, *vital*—
Her Nanay, after all, must have sat her down one night, told her
"There is loveliness in pursed lips," then slapped her,
Before the dusk cock crowed and the jeepney blew its horn
To take her downtown and meet the white man of her dreams—
Bob or Dick or Gordon—those anonymous dicks
That once danced on webcams in Internet cafes.
So now her quiet must be like her brown of skin,
Down-to-earth, *kumbaga*, geisha-like, like how
White trash dream women to be when they cross
Oceans to be kings in foreign shores.
So now she sits there with "interested" smile
Pasted on dark red lips the White Man thinks *is* beautiful,
Feigning curiosity for his bursting email crowing
Success For Love, sent from this hostile café—blind to
Stares killing her, knives that snide. For them, *these people*,
She flips, like a defiance, the blackness of her hair,
Grateful for the distractions of her bangles,
Her shiny bracelets, her tight red pants,
Her heeled sandals...
Things that the White Man loves
With his blue darkening eyes.

Ian Rosales Casocot

ReadLetter Days

By The SIM Staff

WHETHER you're out in the sun, comfortably in the shade or in a gray airport lobby, these new books will take you away to another place. And what else is summer for but to discover the unknown, experience new things and read really interesting books? SIM's Summer Reading Issue has the goods. Ready for some good reading? Let's go—and don't forget your favorite bookmark.

FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS

Fiction:

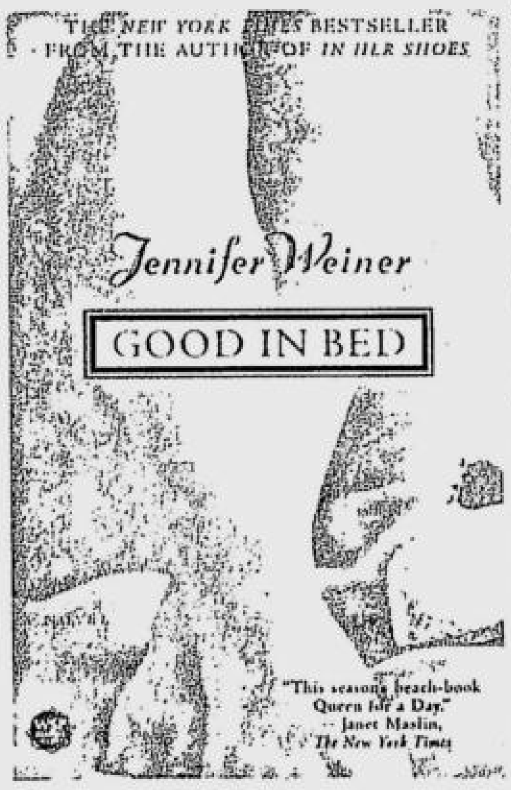
"Digital Fortress"
by Dan Brown
St. Martin's Paperbacks

IF YOU want science and suspense all thrown together, there's currently no one better or more popular than Dan Brown. While his red-hot novel "The Da Vinci Code" is about history, "Digital Fortress" is all tech and terror. This time, it's a cryptologist named Susan Fletcher who must uncover a shadowy conspiracy and a virtually unbreakable code that can destroy the intelligence community. It's pulse-pounding, page-turning action with a code-breaker twist from a rising author. So good you'll not be able to put it down, whether you're in an airport or on a beach. **Ruel S. De Vera**

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE DA VINCI CODE
DAN BROWN
DIGITAL FORTRESS
THE ULTIMATE CODE. IT'S POWERFUL, DANGEROUS—AND UNBREAKABLE...

"Good in Bed"
by Jennifer Weiner
Washington Square Press

OUR fearless forecast is that this book will be the next big girl tome-turned-girl flick, in the tradition of Bridget Jones, and rightly so. It starts funny enough, as plus-size journalist and heroine Cannie Shapiro finds that her ex-boyfriend is writing about their sex life in his new column. Then it becomes more than a comedy, as issues beyond simple body weight—most significantly, being rejected by a perfectionist father—bubble to the surface, and your heart just goes out to Cannie. Fantasy elements, like her unexpected befriending of a big Hollywood star and the cartoon characters in her weight loss class, keep this from being an all-out weeper. Naturally, there's a happy ending, but not TOO happy that it can't be believed. A fun read; I see Renée Zellwegger again in the movie, plus about 40 lbs. **Alya B. Honasan**


THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
FROM THE AUTHOR OF IN HER SHOES
Jennifer Weiner
GOOD IN BED
"This season's beach-book Queen for a Day."
-- Janet Maslin, The New York Times

"Naked Empire"
by Terry Goodkind
Tor Fantasy

The eighth book in Goodkind's Sword of Truth series, "Naked Empire" chronicles the continuing adventures of the Sword of Truth, Lord Richard Rahl, as he moves about the Westlands with beautiful Mother Confessor Kahlen. With its requisite magic, swordplay and secrets, "Naked Empire" is part of the puzzle that Goodkind is creating with this series, but it can be read by itself. Though it's somewhat dense and a little run-of-the-mill as far as fantasy novels are concerned, it'll be a must-read for Sword of Truth fans, though probably a bit overdone for other readers. **RSDV**

"Dream Jungle"
by Jessica Hagedorn
Viking

A SPRAWLING novel with a very promising take on the life and adventures of a Spanish *mestizo* who discovers a lost tribe during martial law. Sizzles with roman a' clef personalities and events from that era, until it branches out into subplots with too many characters and murky motivations. It then fizzles out into a complicated, flabby and messy narrative that's difficult to follow.

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

dream jungle
Jessica Hagedorn

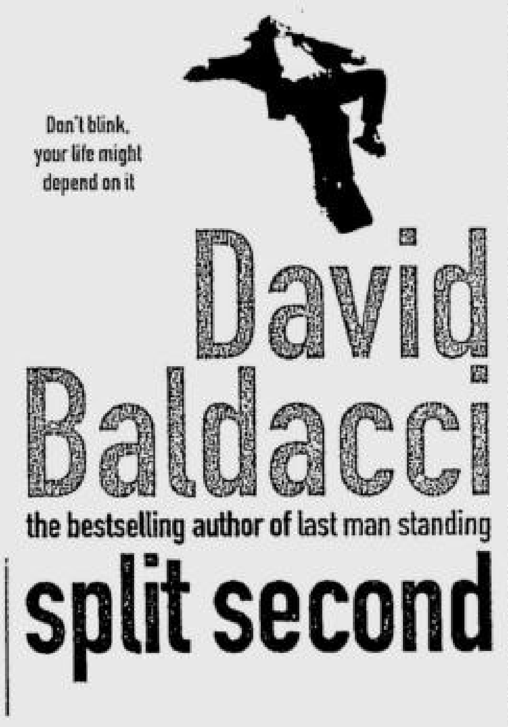
"Split Second"
by David Baldacci

BET you can't put this down once you get started. A secret agent gets distracted for a split-second and a presidential candidate gets killed. Eight years later, another secret service career goes down the drain when another candidate gets abducted. You almost wish things were as exciting on the local campaign trail, sigh. Failing that, there's this thriller for that vicarious kick. **PAC**

"Lucky Stars"
by Jane Heller
St. Martin's Paperbacks

AN IDEAL beach companion: a breezy and easy read that will have you chuckling at its wisecracks about a meddlesome mom who goes to Hollywood and gets everything that her aspiring actress-daughter could only dream of. There's a feel-good romance here too, and an interesting whodunit. Very entertaining. **PAC**

"Once Upon A Pillow "
by Cristina Dodd and Connie Brockway
Pocket Books


Don't blink, your life might depend on it
David Baldacci
the bestselling author of last man standing
split second

A TRASHY historical romance with a fun enough premise: A huge heirloom bed is made for a knight and his virtuous lady in the 1200s in Trecombe, Cornwall, and lives on through the ages, bearing witness to centuries of significant copulations. The flashbacks are cut-to-cut with scenes from the present day, with the museum housing the pedigreed sex spot now threatened with closure, while sexual innuendoes fly between the curator and her enigmatic handyman, who, of course, turns out to be more than he appears to be. You can certainly predict the ending, but it's a fun read, with lots of steamy love scenes from the medieval times to the Elizabethan era—perfect for mindless beachside hammock reading. **ABH**

"The Jester"
by James Patterson & Andrew Gross
Warner Books

FROM "Kiss the Girls" to "Cat & Mouse," James Patterson has always shown a knack for the strange and far-fetched (genetically modified children?) to the chilling and real (obsessed stalkers) as well as the capacity for making an old-fashioned thriller out of it. "The Jester" (co-written with Andrew Gross) is intriguing with a far-out premise: an ex-Crusader (as in, the medieval Crusades) returns home to find his loved ones kidnapped or slain, and now Hugh De Luc must ride off to find a artifact of incomprehensible importance. Travel back in time in this compact, efficient and by-the-numbers Patterson adventure. **RSDV**

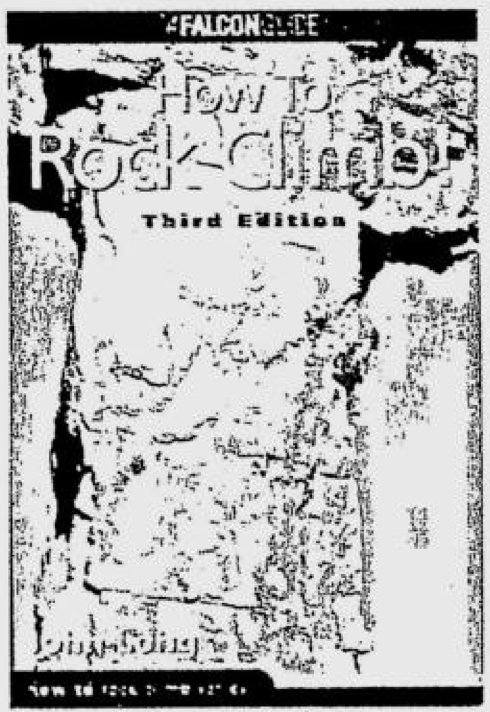
Turning Revolving-Door Romance into Lasting Love
buyers, renters & freeloaders

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHORS
Christina Dodd
Connie Brockway
"Delectably sexy." —Booklist
Once Upon a Pillow

Non-fiction:

"Buyers, Renters and Freeloaders: Turning Revolving-Door Romance into Lasting Love"
by Willard F. Harley, Jr.
Fleming H. Revel

FIRST of all, there might already be a problem if you need a book to learn how to love properly. If you have to pick up one that uses metaphors from real estate, then you really need help. Harley takes a premise that has already been shot down by every marriage counselor in town—that romantic love is the best kind—and proceeds to support it with the most un-sexy of analogies. Harley divides lovers into three groups: freeloaders who are unwilling to invest much in relationships, renters who view relationships as "tentative," and buyers who are in it for the long haul. My beef is that many of the self-affirming attitudes that people aspire to bring to relationships—that your partner should love you for what you are, that you shouldn't hang around with someone who criticizes you all the time—are, in Harley's opinion, part of freeloading. If you're old enough to distinguish between self-esteem and selfishness, this book is a crock of sh-t. I say, we should stop analyzing so much (and in such a boooring way, to boot) and just LOVE. **ABH**



"The Complete Idiot's Guide to Playing the Guitar"
by Frederick Noad
Alpha Books

SUMMER'S here and the time is right for starting a band! But first, you gotta learn how to play an instrument. Suffice it to say that had this book been available when I was starting to learn how to play the guitar—never mind how many years ago—maybe I'd be a rock star now instead of having to write this review. Noad takes the novice through the basics, like tuning the guitar, to some pretty advanced stuff like playing flamenco, the blues and other popular styles. Another satisfying installment in the "Complete Idiot's Guide" series.

Eric S. Caruncho

"The Complete Idiot's Guide to Playing the Drums"
by Michael Miller
Alpha Books.

"LET me disillusion you," the author starts early on. "Drummers don't get groupies. Guitarists and singers get groupies. Think about it. How many fans

To page 4

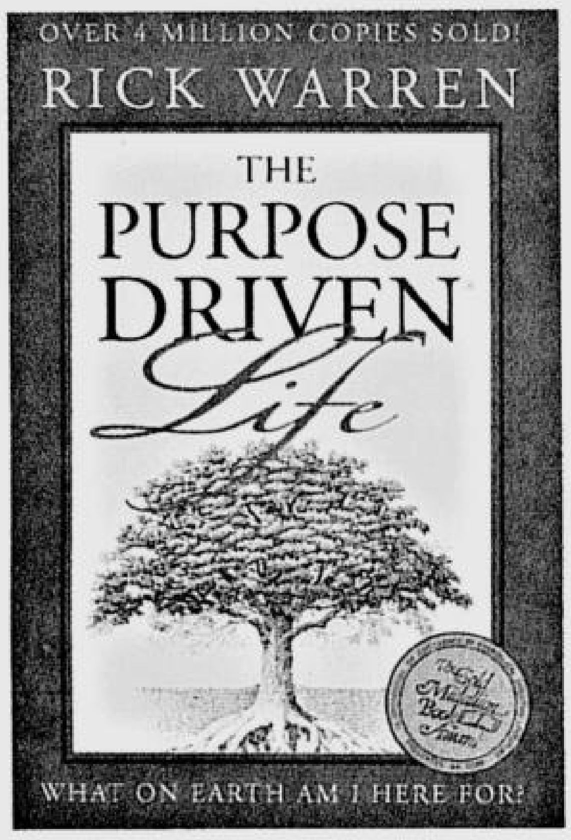
Read

...from page 3

standing at the stage door at a Rolling Stones concert are waiting for Mick Jagger, and how many are waiting for Charlie Watts? I rest my case." If this bit of advice doesn't dissuade you, then read on. The book takes the beginning skinsman through drills and paradiddles, before teaching him/her how to construct a drum solo. Essential, specially for the rhythmically challenged. **ESC**

"How to Rock Climb!"
by John Long
Falcon

THIS is the best kind of guide for any sport neophyte—clear, engagingly written, and not too intimidating. Long has evident respect for his subject matter, "the art of climbing rock," and the "judgment, instinct and physical awareness" that make a good climber. The activity is classified into 1) walking, 2) hiking, 3) scrambling, 4) climbing risky enough that a fall could be fatal (we loved that one), 5) technical rock climbing using a rope, and 6) climbs impossible to make with bare hands and feet, and the book is all about no. 5. Boxes explain common terms, clear pen-and-ink illustrations show details, and inspiring photographs of climbers negotiating near-impossible heights can only build up your enthusiasm. Particularly thoughtful are sections on "Getting Down" (in our experience, the hardest part of a climb) and "Training for Climbing," including gym work and cross-training options. Not a substitute for personal instruction, as the author makes clear, but a great first step. **ABH**



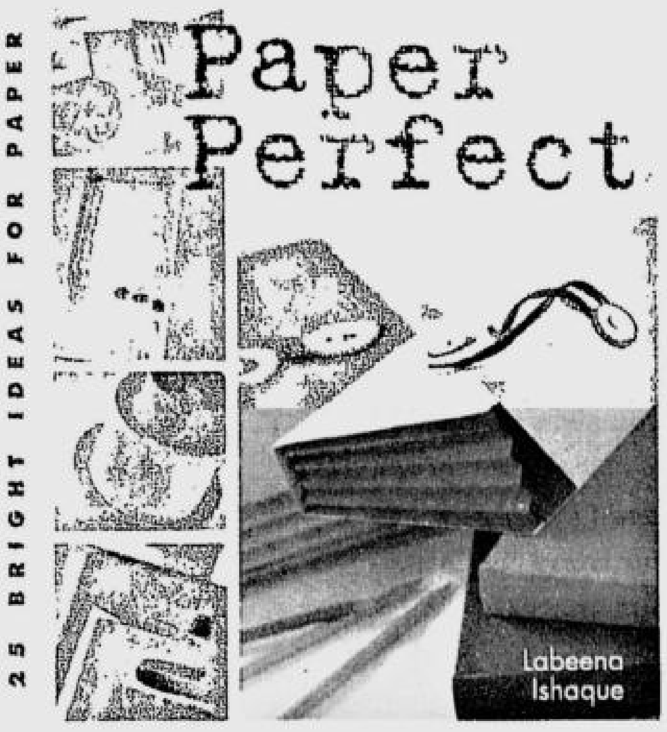
"Paper Perfect"
by Labeena Ishaque
Lark Books

THERE are so many things you can do with your spare time this hot summer, and sometimes all you need is the right amount of paper. You'll be surprised with what a little cutting and folding can do. Lampshades, boxes, containers of all kinds, stationery—all this is at your fingertips, ranging from the sleek and stylish to the playful and wacky. In fact, "Paper Perfect" can help you make your own paper. It's, uh, perfect for summer projects with the kids or just learning to do something new on your own. **RSDV**

"The Purpose-Driven Life"
by Rick Warren
OMF Literature

IF you've been wondering what all the fuss has been about, then here's your opportunity to experience what many have praised as a life-altering read. "This is more than a book; it's a guide to a 40-day spiritual journey that will enable you to discover the answer to life's most important question: What on earth am I here for," reads Warren's introduction. A step-by-step, unabashedly Christian approach to soul-searching and life direction, "The Purpose-Driven Life" is not your usual self-help book. If you're someone looking for a God-centered jumpstart to your life, or simply somebody looking for something more in your everyday life, then this is worth trying out. **RSDV**

HOW TO DRAW MANGA
Pen & Tone Techniques
Ryo Toudo



"Pergamano Parchment Craft"
by Martha Ospina
New Holland

JUST when you've had enough of cross stitching comes another genteel art—parchment craft. Basically, you take a translucent sheet of paper and turn it into cards, invitations, lampshades, bookmarks, boxes, picture frames, gift tags, mobiles and wall hangings. Don't worry about getting the right tools. With its full-color and detailed step-by-step instructions, the book makes it look so easy and worth experimenting with what's available at your local bookstore. It just might wean the youngsters away from Ragnarok, at least for a while. **PAC**

"How to Draw Manga:
Pen & Tone Techniques"
by Ryo Toudo
Graphic-Sha Publishing

SO you thought drawing Manga only meant affixing the wide-eyed gaze of a tarsier to your female comics characters and a twisted grimace to the males? This book certainly debunks all that and shows how, with different screen tones and pencil shading, one can create nuances of character, human expressions and the frantic gesticulations that mark Japanese anime. As a bonus, the detailed instructions are dramatized by three manga characters like they're enacting a comics script. Makes for painless learning. **PAC**

"Lonely Planet Philippines"
Chris Rowthorn, Monique Choy, Michael Grosberg, Steven Martin, Sonica Orchard
Lonely Planet Publications

ACCURATE, thorough, very current and reliable and often spiced with humor. Sample info: "In much of the Philippines, phones are about as common as Velcro dentures—and about as dependable." The notes on "History & Politics" even gives capsule reviews of the latest books on the subject, while that on "Films" tells you that over 200 B-action movies have been shot in the islands, with the most horrendous title being "Women of Transplant Island." The pictures are scrumptious too! Given its wealth of information, the book can make locals and long-time residents wonder how they could have missed out on such extensive data and piquant observations. **PAC**

Creative Nonfiction
A READER
Edited by
Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo
The University of the Philippines Press

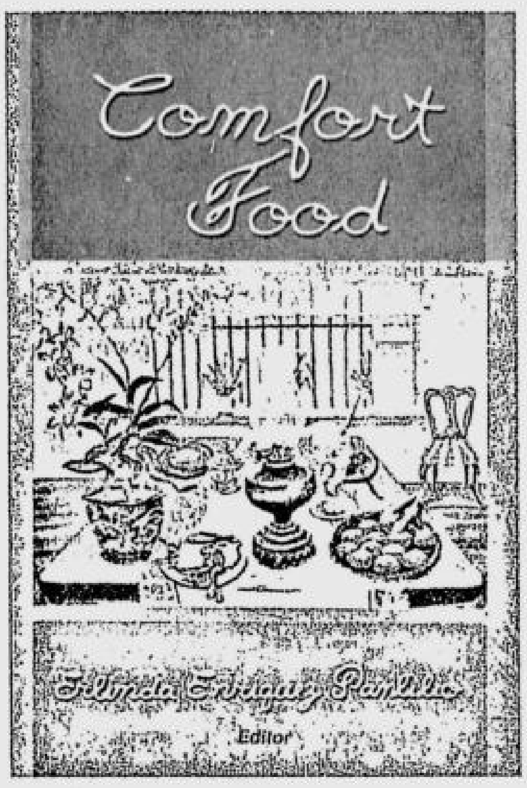
All foreign titles available from National Bookstore and PowerBooks.

PHILIPPINE PUBLICATIONS

Fiction:

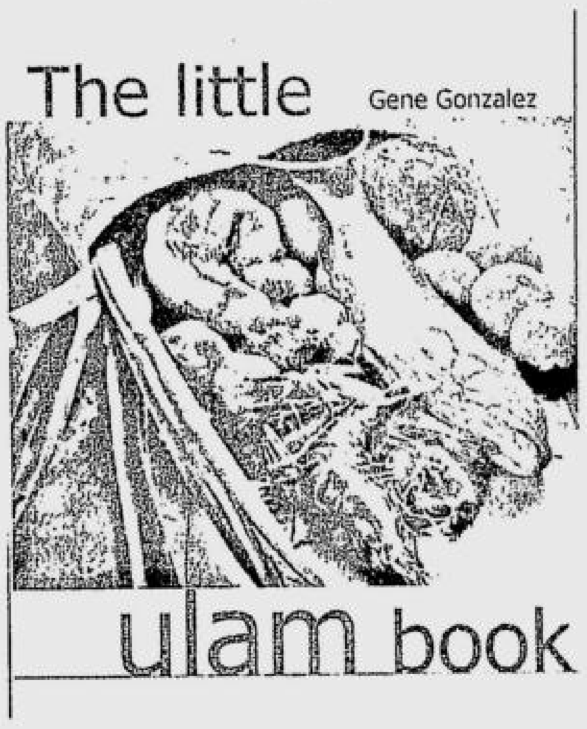
"Feast and Famine:
Stories of Negros"
by Rosario Cruz Lucero
University of the Philippines Press

THE setting for these stories couldn't have been more storied: Negros has a rich and lush history redolent with the orgiastic fantasies of Spanish friars, the insatiable lust of *hacienderos* and the blood-soaked yearnings of *sacadas* and martial law activists. With such a textured backdrop, the stories sometimes stray into the realm of magic realism, but oh, how willingly the reader follows this wondrous path! **PAC**



"Antyng Antyng"
by Uro Q. Dela Cruz
Anvil Publishing

NOT exactly an easy novel to read, given its deeply poetic phrases in Filipino and the meandering narrative that detours from the present to 400 years back. Three malcontents who set out to steal an antique historical marker in a remote and dusty town become the staging platform for a retelling of the town's history of betrayal, its banal politics, trenchant characters and illicit affairs. Reads like an extended and fleshed out history lesson on colonization, the Huk rebellion, martial law and small town politics. **PAC**



"Reconnaissance"
by Tara FT. Sering
University of the Philippines Press

I GENERALLY avoid rom-coms with Hugh Grant in them and girls who watch "Ally McBeal" and "Sex in the City" religiously, and this volume initially rang all my "chick lit" alarm buttons: the author was an editor at "Cosmopolitan," and the centerpiece of this collection of stories, the short novel "Getting Better," had chapter titles like "How To Tell the World You're So In Love You're Getting Married" and "How To Recover From Heartbreak By Trying Really Hard." But hey, chicks dig it, and if you want to, like, score, you'd best try to dig it, too. **ESC**

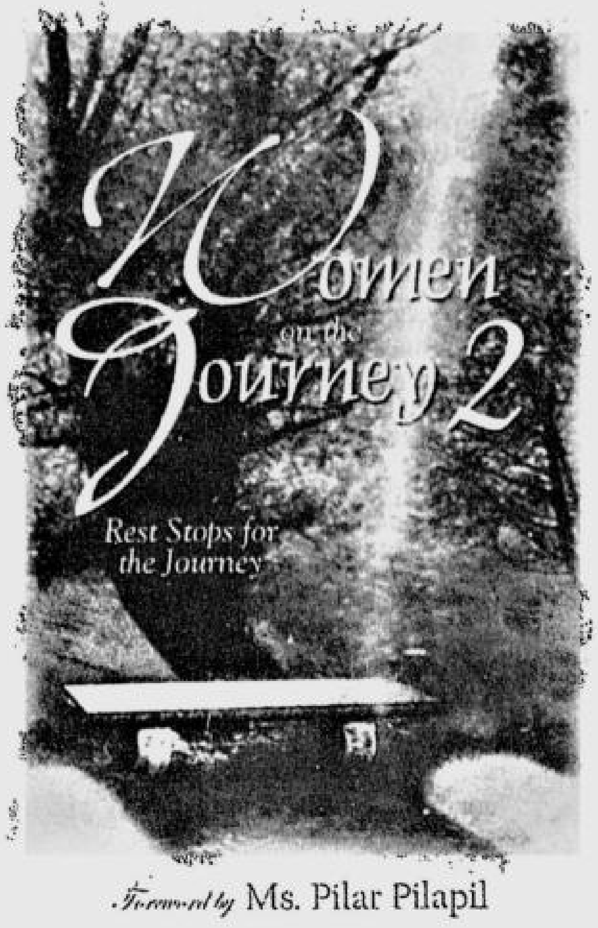
Non-fiction:

"Consuming Passions: Philippine Collectibles"
Edited by Jaime C. Laya
Anvil Publishing

A RESPECTED technocrat, Laya is also steeped in the history of our tangible heritage, making him the ideal editor for this compilation of essays by Filipino collectors on their peculiar passions. Helpfully illustrated with color plates, this deluxe hardcover edition is a must for anyone interested in Philippine art, antiques and other cultural artifacts. The writers bring their considerable experience and know-how to bear on seeking out, appraising and enjoying everything from *anting-anting* and *santos*; to stamps, coins, books, paintings and maps; to tribal art and crafts. Just as fascinating are the essays on the collector's itch, and how to scratch it. **ESC**

"Creative Nonfiction: A Reader"
Edited by Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo
University of the Philippines Press

WELL, some are just more creative than others. This thick collection of feature articles, personal essays, reviews, character sketches, memoirs and travel narratives is largely uneven, with several write-ups sounding dated and too inconsequential to be interesting (the reviews of the malls, for instance). Among the most creative are those by



Marivi Soliven Blanco, Jessica Zafra, Lorna Kalaw Tirol, Gilda Cordero Fernando and Pantoja-Hidalgo. **PAC**

"Days of Disquiet, Nights of Rage: The First Quarter Storm & Related Events"
by Jose F. Lacaba
Anvil Publishing

ACTIVISTS and students of modern Philippine history have been passing around dog-eared copies of this classic collection, long out of print, of Pete Lacaba's reportage on the tumultuous events now known as the First Quarter Storm for the Philippines Free Press and the Asia-Philippines Leader. This new edition by Anvil is a welcome addition to the literature on this crucial period, as much for its blow-by-blow chronicling of the events as for the author's crisp, taut prose. If nothing else, this book will make you wonder why no one writes about current events like this any more. **ESC**

"*Ilustrado* Politics: Filipino Elite Responses to American Rule, 1898-1908"
by Michael Cullinane
Ateneo de Manila University Press

THIS extensively researched volume may be of particular interest in the light of the coming May 10 polls, since it focuses on the rise of electoral politics in the Philippines during the American colonial period. The author, a professor of Southeast Asian history at the University of Wisconsin, explains how the Filipino elite—the *ilustrados*—adapted themselves to the new institution of representative democracy in order to further their own class interests, and helped forge the "special relations" with American colonial powers that survives to this day. **ESC**

Jose Javier Reyes
Porn Again
Midlife Outtakes and Mistakes

"Not Home But Here: Writings from the Filipino Diaspora"
Edited by Luisa A. Igloria
Anvil Publishing

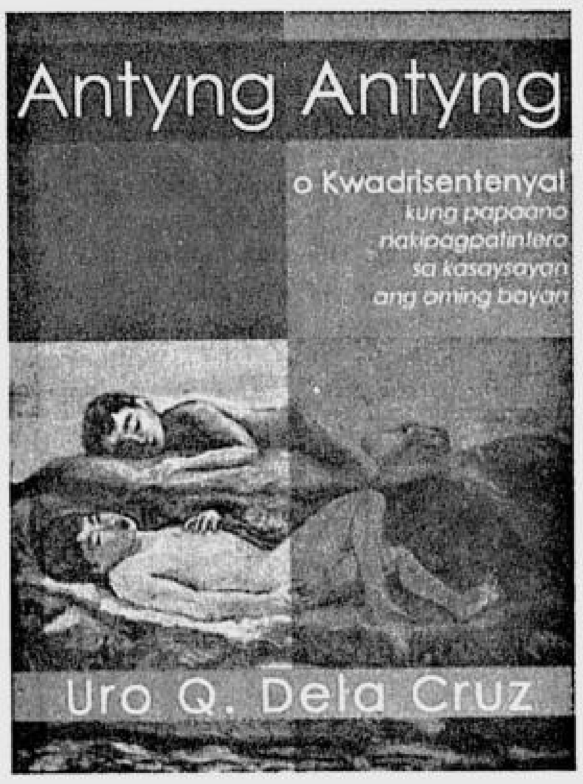
THIS slim anthology offers poems and personal essays about one's longing for *sinigang* in London and a McJob in New York, side by side with meditations on being Filipino and broke in a strange country. Explorations on the issues of race, language, class and ethnicity give this book heft, while essays by Bino Realuyo and Felix Fojas rescue it from being too academic. **PAC**

***"Aparador ni Lola:* Past Lives, Precious Objects"**
Edited by Emmie G. Velarde
Anvil Publishing

SEVENTEEN writers come out of their grandmothers' closet to disclose how their *lolas'* wardrobe cabinet hid not only prosaic objects, precious jewelry and tacky keepsakes, but also memories of more genteel times and enduring relationships. Written lovingly and often spiced with humor and witty anecdotes, the essays guarantee that you'll never look at another *aparador* without gleaning your family history in its beveled mirror and secret compartments. **PAC**

"*Mabuhay* to Beauty: Profiles of Beauties and Essays on Pageants"
Edited by Jose Wendell P. Capili
Milflores Publishing Inc.

GUSHY, breathless, vapid. Imagine watching a marathon of beauty pageants with the annotator gabbing on endlessly about each candidate's costumes, swimsuits and answers to the crucial last-five-finalists question. Add a detailed review of international beauty tilts in the last three years including guest performers (Reeeecccckkkkeeee Maaarrrrteeeen!!!) and past winners, and you know how it feels to have too much cotton candy and nothing else. As a contributor describes one contestant in a swimsuit, the book is "a little too zaftig" with irrelevant details, and reads like a PR kit for a major organizer of beauty tilts. Sigh, and all we wanted was world peace. **PAC**



"Women on the Journey 2: Rest Stops for the Journey"
Compiled and edited by Michelle Ocampo-Joaquin
Church Strengthening Ministry

AS in most compilations, the trick is to skim through the various offerings and pick out only those that you find most relevant and striking. In this collection, 30 women of diverse persuasions reflect on how God has provided a breather in their harried and hurried journey through life in short, easy to read and very personal vignettes. Particularly inspiring are those that find enlightenment in such mundane stuff as wrinkles, the *ukay-ukay*, even beauty pageants. PAC

"The Little *Ulam* Book"
by Gene Gonzalez
Anvil Publishing

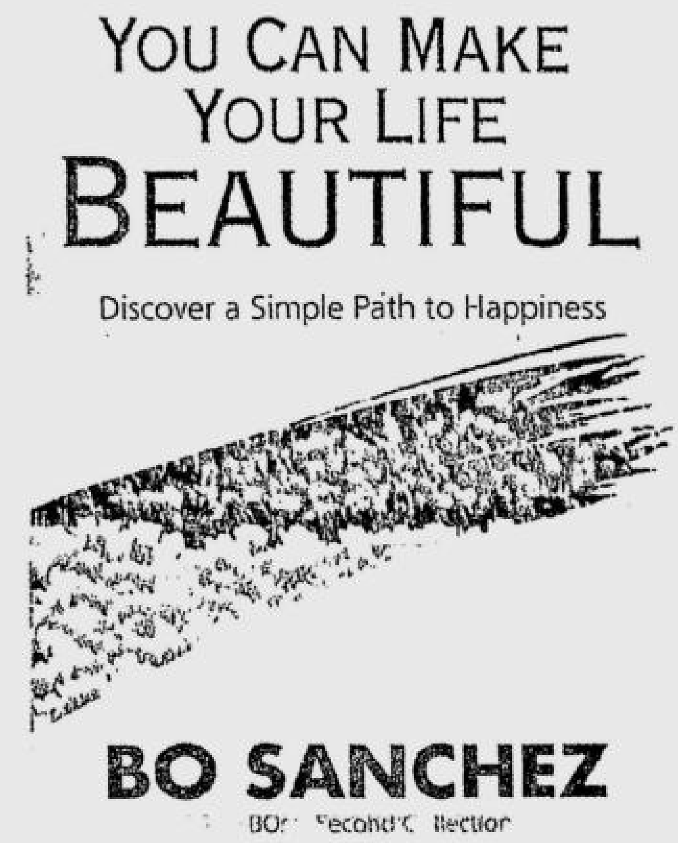
HOME cooking never looked so easy. The secret, according to this handy book, is mainly sautéing and adding the spices common to Filipino kitchens, made richer with coconut cream or *aligue* (crab fat). Though the book leans heavily on meat-based dishes, trust Gonzalez to introduce new tastes and recipes (as in *minaggang adobo, bistek na pusit sa saging* and *sinantol*). Each recipe also comes with handy tips from this reknown chef, just to make things a bit easier. Definitely a boon for working moms who bring home the bacon—and want to serve it various ways as well. **PAC**

"Growing Up Filipino: Stories for Young Adults"
Collected and Edited by Cecilia Manguerra Brainard
Anvil Publishing

WHAT do young people these days remember most about their growing up years? Which experiences do they savor the most? What does it mean to be young and a Filipino especially among transplanted Pinoys abroad? Twenty-nine personal stories dealing with family, angst, friendship, love and home reflect not only individual insights, but also the country's collective consciousness, culture and history. An entertaining way to revisit one's youth and its trepidations. **PAC**

"Porn Again: Midlife Outtakes and Mistakes"
by Jose Javier Reyes
Anvil Publishing

IN her foreword, Jessica Zafra announces that director Reyes (who "can make you laugh hard enough to firm up your abs") is a prodigious writer, and these numerous, engaging essays on a prodigiously wide range of topics are proof positive. Unless you're sick and tired of reading yet another opinion on current events, sample Reyes' substantial insights punctuated with ice-breaking *bading* expressions (*"Oo na!"* or *"Naman!"*). He shifts with elán from subjects as absurd as the *dikya*-induced brownout of 2001 to the jarring lessons of 9/11 and comforting a friend whose husband is about to leave her. Amen to his musings on singlehood: "Even a hobby like cross stitching or *papier tole* can be more enriching than a categorically awful human involvement." *Oo naman!* **ABH**


YOU CAN MAKE YOUR LIFE BEAUTIFUL
Discover a Simple Path to Happiness
BO SANCHEZ

"100 Resorts in the Philippines: Places With A Heart"
by Dominique Grele and Lily Yousry-Jouve
Encyclea

ALTHOUGH your own heart can't help but break a little every time a foreigner writes more authoritatively about your country than you can, one appreciates the benefit of an outsider's perspective. The selections are by no means complete, as the authors themselves point out, which makes you wonder what kind of deal could have made such research possible. Some of this writer's favorite resorts in Coron and Camiguin, for example, are missing, and we're sure they're worth at least a couple of hearts each (the authors add heart icons for places they especially liked). But the photos are attractive and the information helpful. There are places in this book many Pinoys may never have heard of, so this is the summer to go and see for yourself. **ABH**

"Sari-Sari"
by Rio Alma
Anvil Publishing

THE NATIONAL Artist for Literature graces us with more of his nuanced, graceful and playful poetic stylings with "Sari-Sari," one of two recently-released compilations of Virgilio Almario's Tagalog poems. In these well-constructed and witty observations on everday life and objects, readers will see the kind of joy and devotion to craft that makes Almario such a worthy read. Be it about breakfast, clotheslines and a promised return after the fiesta, the poems in "Sari-Sari" prove that poetry can indeed be both accessible and timeless. **RSDV**

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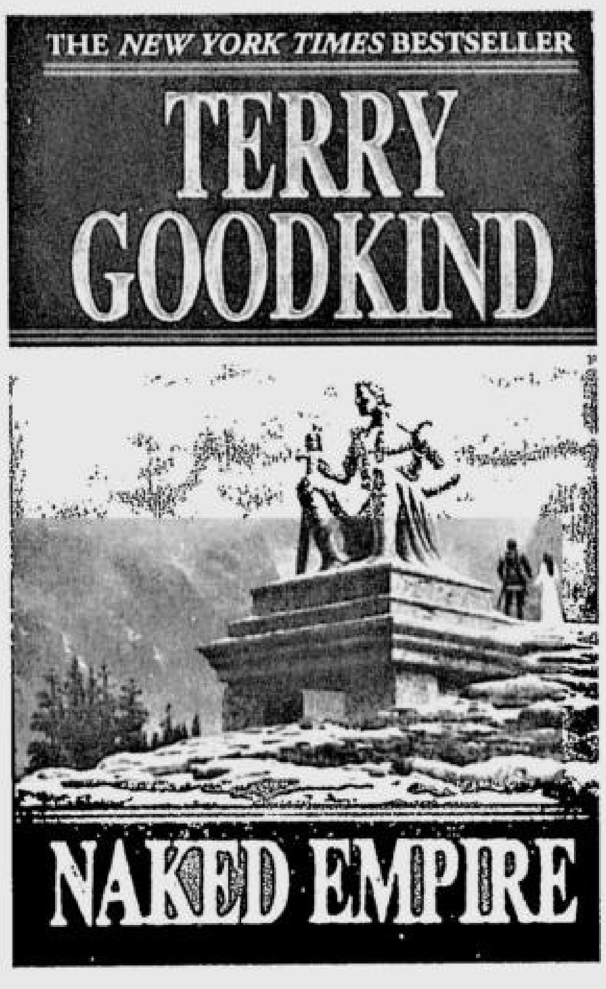

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"140 Days of Terror: In the Clutches of the Abu Sayyaf"
by Roberto N. Aventajado with Teodoro Y. Montelibano
Anvil Publishing

WHEN the Abu Sayyaf kidnapped the Burnhams among others in 2002, it put Mindanao and the Philippines in the harsh spotlight. The glare only got worse as captives would die and stories of ransoms paid as well as bribes given would be heard. Now, here is a version of events according to Robert Aventajado, who was involved in the negotiations. Whether you consider it apologia or the truth, Aventajado's words are a part of the entire picture and deserve to be heard. "140 Days of Terror," in any book, is part of the growing body of knowledge on the Abu Sayyaf and other terrorist groups. However you may lean, it's an eye-opening read—though you may not want to read it while sitting on a beach. **RSDV**

100 resorts
PHILIPPINES

"Comfort Food"
Edited by Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio
Anvil Publishing

IT'S a virtual movable feast of good writing about good eating, as orchestrated by Erlinda Panlilio. Whether it's the food itself or the memories that come with the eating that brings comfort, Panlilio has it all served hot and piping with an impressive and filling group of writers like Edith Tiempo, Gene Gonzalez, Luisa Igloria, Alfred Yuson, Butch Dalisay and Clinton Palanca, among others. Milk, *bagoong*, cocido, mami, banana splits, corned beef and ice cream, and much more—it's all here, a buffet of reading and dining sure to satisfy any palate. **RSDV**

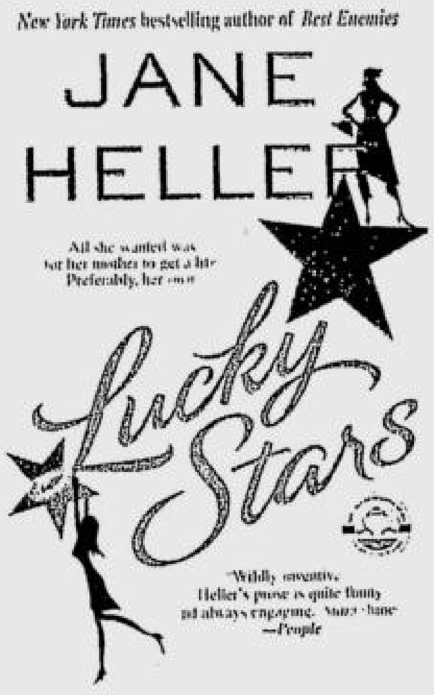
Consuming Passions
Philippine Collectibles

"Writing On Water"
by Jim Paredes
Anvil Publishing

AFTER getting past the foreword by Neale Donald Walsch (the only part of the book that didn't feel right), swimming into Jim Paredes' book is like sinking into a hot tub—you go in slowly, tentatively, and when you're finally immersed, it feels good and right. This singer, songwriter, performer, photographer, and of late, author and conductor of workshops is also a diligent student of Zen meditation and a startlingly insightful writer. The random thoughts seem written in no particular order, and appropriately so, as the title points out the transience of all things and the presumptuousness of people in believing that life is theirs to control, when it's just borrowed from a higher place. "The very act of living is written on water," he says. Paredes' black-and-white photographs add mood, and we love the way the words are printed on the page, curving like waves that, to paraphrase Kahlil Gibran, gently touch the shores of our souls. **ABH**

"You Can Make Your Life Beautiful"
by Bo Sanchez
Shepherd's Voice

RELIGIOUS writer and preacher Bo Sanchez has a gift for touching a broad range of people with his misadventures as an everyman and erstwhile "toothpick-structured, pimple-infested" kid whom God has led to greater things. It's hit and miss, though, as Sanchez swings from being profound in his simplicity ("In my heart, I knew my father loved me. Because he loved me enough to waste time on me") to downright corny; spelling words like "'coz" and "good-lookin'" may be pushing the *pa*-cute envelope a bit far, and Sanchez sometimes falls into the writer's trap of believing that people will be interested in every little detail of his life. Still, this may just be what you need for an uncomplicated, lighthearted reflection on your faith. Get your head out of the clouds of theological theory and sample this guy's anecdotes. His optimism is inspiring. **ABH**



All Philippine titles available from leading bookstores.

Pinoy Power

By Christine C. Rivero

Philippine publications rock kids' world this summer with these imaginative and accessible offerings. Give your young ones' summer reading a decidedly Filipino flavor

"Kain, Kumain, Kinain"
by Mike L. Bigornia, Illustrated by Jess Abrera
Adarna House

HOW to explain the food chain. Islaw trips over a mossy stone and triggers a series of events that end in his having a hearty meal for lunch. In simple sentences that make subtle use of alliteration and rhyme ("*Mula sa batong gumulong at lumubog, ang lumot ay lumutang-lutang...*"), the delicate process of how nature feeds each creature is clearly explained and depicted in good humor.

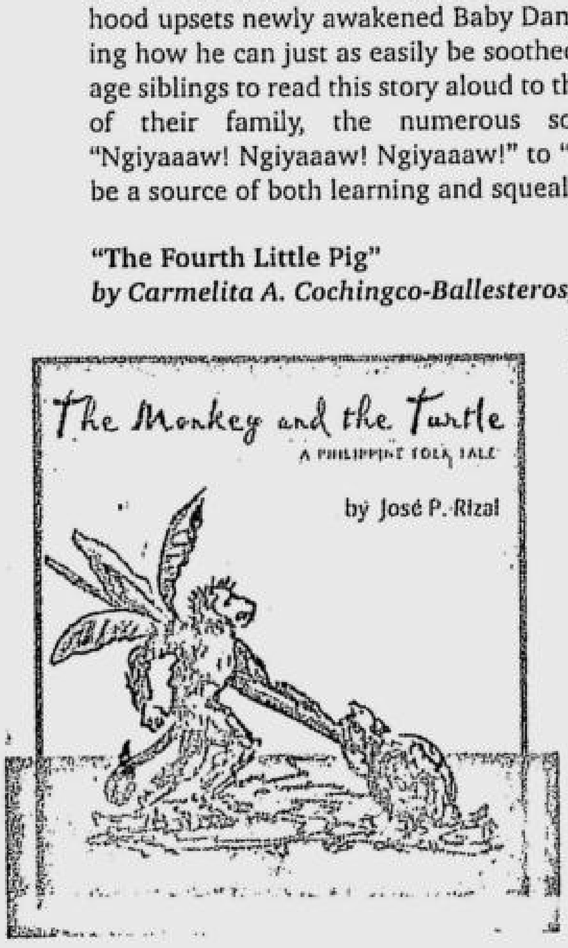
Kain, Kumain, Kinain
A Food Chain Story
Kuwento ni/Story by MIKE L. BIGORNIA
Guhit ni/Illustrations by JESS ABRERA

"Brave Little Baby Dan"
Story by Maria Catherine Garcia-Gatchalian, written by Mabi David-Balangue, illustrated by Nemcy C. Cruz
Adarna House

THIS is an ideal book for kids who have a baby brother or sister. It's a quick little story about how the noisy neighborhood upsets newly awakened Baby Dan, and ends by showing how he can just as easily be soothed. If parents encourage siblings to read this story aloud to the youngest member of their family, the numerous sound effects—from "Ngiyaaaw! Ngiyaaaw! Ngiyaaaw!" to "Pot! Pot! Pot!"—can be a source of both learning and squealing fun.

"The Fourth Little Pig"
by Carmelita A. Cochingco-Ballesteros, illustrated by Beth Parrocha-Doctolero
Panday-Isip Publishing House, Inc.

NO huffin' or puffin' here. Only four little pigs named Snorty, Chubby, Bootsy and Gorgy. After the first three pigs decided to build stone houses, there was no more space on the pig farm for Gorgy's house. Gorgy then traveled all over the world until he reached the rundown cottage of a crippled piano teacher. The two of them find a way to solve each other's problems but not before they have a small disagreement. The author dedicates this book to the children of overseas Filipino workers, handicapped children and "children with big dreams," all of whom should enjoy this story's rosy outcome.

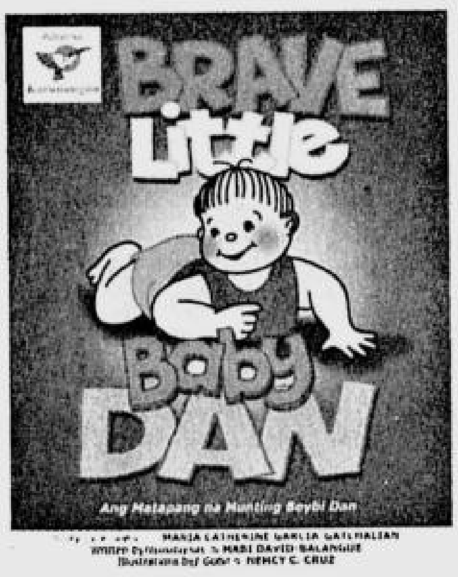


"The Monkey and the Turtle"
by Jose P. Rizal
Tahanan Books for Young Readers

EVERY Pinoy kid has to know what happened to the Monkey and the Turtle. No less than our National Hero, Jose Rizal, retells this folk tale, and this book reprints both his own English translation and his sketches for the story, digitally colored with the original line-art preserved. Handsomely bound, this story about how the Monkey's greed is twice thwarted by the Turtle's quick-thinking is a must for any child's library.

"Si Isem sa Bayang Bawal Tumawa"
by Eugene Y. Evasco, illustrated by John D. Crisostomo
Lampara Books

"*MISOOT*" is the Iluko word for "scowl" while "*rupanget*" means "ill-tempered." It shouldn't be any wonder then that Datu Rupanget of the town of Misoot decreed that laughter is forbidden in his domain. But when wacky Isem storms into town, those frowns turn upside-down and even Datu Rupanget can't resist guffawing, especially when he realizes how unreasonably they had all been behaving. With lively language and illustrations that capture the story's wit, this book celebrates our people's irrepressible sense of humor. And "*isem*," it turns out, also happens to be the Iluko word for "smile."


BRAVE Little Baby DAN
Ang Matapang na Munting Beybi Dan
MARIA CATHERINE GARCIA GATCHALIAN
MABI DAVID BALANGUE
NEMCY C. CRUZ

"Aesop's Fables"
Illustrated by Jason Moss, retold by Boots S. A. Pastor
Lampara Books

THERE are a total of six titles in this excellent collection in which artist Jason Moss displays the stunning range of his imagination. "The Ant and the Grasshopper" is presented in the style and rich hues of Chinese painting. "The Crane and the Peacock" comes to life as an elaborate water color ballet. The Wolf flatters the vain Crow in a forest made from a montage of torn musical scores. Each book also comes with an activity page and easy to assemble paper cut-out figurines. A budding artist can learn much more than the fables' morals from these books.

The Great Zialci the Magician
Jose L. Zialcita

"The Great Zialci, The Magician"
by Jose L. Zialcita
Anvil Publishing

"EVERYTHING in life can be seen as magic only if you make it so," writes author Jose L. Zialcita, a.k.a. The Great Zialci. Through this easy to read autobiography, children can get to know a real Filipino magician who recalls his adventures as an international illusionist with the zest and warmth of a favorite uncle or grandfather. The Great Zialci, though, stops short of revealing the exact secrets of his trade, so that might disappoint kids somewhat. But his anecdotes about his visits to other countries or how his tricks saved him during the war easily fills the reader with wonder. Q

All titles available from leading bookstores.

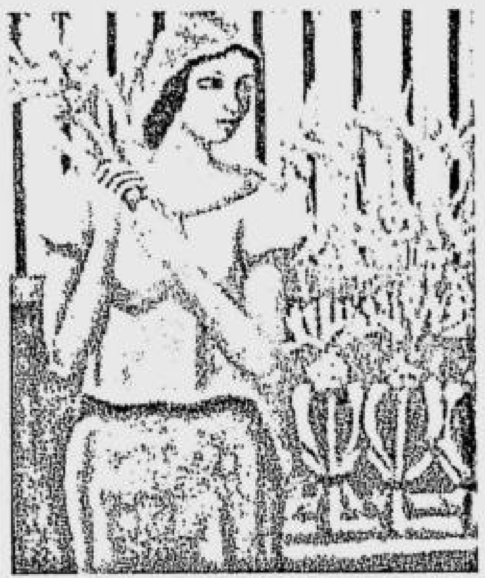
This Week

Art

Sleepwalk, Roberto Chabet's twin exhibitions at the Finale and West galleries, 4/L, SM Megamall A until April 11.

CounterVision, Ramon Diaz's collection of three-dimensional paintings, until April 16 at Galleria Duemila, The Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A.

Raffles Fine Arts is currently holding an exhibit featuring **rare centuries-old Buddha** from Burma, Tibet and Thailand which have never been seen before in the Philippines. Also on view are Tibetan treasures, Chinese furniture, lacquer dining set, and cabinets. Raffles Fine Arts is located at 58 Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City with telephones 895-0409 and 899-1002.



"*Palaspas*," part of the exhibit "*Imahen*" at Nineveh Artspace

Onstage

Martir sa Golgota, a modern passion play incorporating political satire on the elections, will be shown for free on April 5 at St. Jude Parish courtyard, San Miguel; April 6, Munting Isla, V. Mapa Extension, Sta. Mesa; April 7, Plaza Hugo, Sta. Ana; April 8, Mabolo basketball court, Obesis, Pandacan, and April 9 at J. Posadas, Punta, Sta. Ana. Performances at 7:30 p.m. featuring Richard Signey, Alma Concepcion and the Tanghalang Sta. Ana company of actors. For details, call 721-0801.

Food

Kusineo treats all graduates to a special full-course menu at P200+ consisting of soup (pumpkin or chicken asparagus consommé) or nachos trio (nachos with cheese sauce, seasoned ground beef and pico de gallo sauce); entrees (chicken mushroom marsala, baked blue marlin or rosemary-marinated lamb); dessert (rum raisin bread pudding with rum-flavored dulce de leche sauce), and free softdrinks, iced tea or coffee. Kusineo is located at Unit A, The Pomegranate, Mother Ignacia near Roces Avenue, QC (tel. 410-0400).

Kitaro Sushi Japanese-to-go opens its two new branches located at Robinsons Galleria cinema level and at Ma. Orosa Street, Ermita (in front of Court of Appeals). The a la carte menu offers sushi, maki, tempura, noodles, temaki, sushi party trays, sashimi, rice toppings and dessert. The most popular dish is the bento budget buster meals with five different choices ranging from chicken teriyaki, beef yakiniku to tonkatsu, sakana furai or mixed tempura.

Richard Signey plays Jesus Christ in Tanghalang Sta. Ana's "*Martir sa Golgota*"

Atbp

Fifteen **fellowship grants** will be awarded in June by the **Konrad Adenauer Center for Journalism** at the Ateneo de Manila University (CFJ) to working journalists interested in pursuing the Master's degree in Journalism at the Ateneo. The CFJ fellowships are granted to full-time staff members of a news organization in Asia and the Pacific Islands. Applications for admission to the program and for the fellowships are due on April 30. For applicants from outside the Philippines, the due date is April 23. Application forms may be downloaded from http://cfj.ateneo.edu or requested by e-mail at newsroom@admu.edu.ph. CFJ may also be contacted at (632) 926-3253 or (632) 426-6001 (local 5215), or fax at (632) 926-3254.

Photoworks: Class 10, a photography workshop to be conducted by Leo Castillo, will start on April 14 (six sessions, Wednesdays and Mondays, 7 to 10 p.m.) at the DPI Photography Center, Jose Escriva Ave, Ortigas Center. Class fee is P3,500, limited slots only. For details, call Leo Castillo at 0917-9580818.

The Actors Workshop Foundation is now accepting enrollees for its 10-day acting course **Craft: Acting for Film and Television** to be conducted by Gina Alajar and the AWF team of teachers. The workshops will be held for five weekends (Craft 1 to 5) starting April 17 and 18 through May 15 and 16, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. The course is open to all who are interested in acting from 14 years old and above. For inquiries, contact AWF at 723-2297 or 412-2576, or visit its office at 1781 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Cubao, Quezon City.

The Communication Foundation for Asia offers **Electronic Media Tutorials** this summer. Courses offered include non-linear editing (April 15-17), video production (April 27-30), radio production (May 21-22), scriptwriting (April 19-21), Powerpoint (May 21), Photoshop (April 30), Wed Design (May 6-8), Flash Animation (May 17-19) and Publisher (May 28). Limited slots available. For inquiries, call Connie Dumindin at 713-2979, 714-7233 or 713-2981 loc. 716.

Ateneo Wellness Center Summer Workshops: Seminar-Workshop on Therapeutic Play on April 21-23 (first batch) and May 19-21 (second batch). The workshop is designed for teachers, guidance counselors, social workers and other professionals who work with kids. Expressive Pottery Workshop: Module 1 on April 26-29 and Module 2 on May 3-5. The workshop is open to adults. For details, call Jeanette at 426-5659 or 426-6001 loc. 4022-23.

Papercraft Workshop: Contemporary Bookbinding. Learn to make your own handmade papercraft journals, notebooks, scrapbooks and other type of books with Loreto Apilado. Six Saturdays starting April 17 from 1-4 p.m. Fee is P5,250 (inclusive of materials). The Lopez Museum is located at the G/F Benpres Building, Exchange Road, Pasig City. Limited slots. For reservations, call Fanny at 631-2417 or 449-2355.

The **2004 Summer Drama Workshops-Acting for Stage Screen and Advertising** will be held at the Ninoy Aquino Parks & Wildlife Nature Center, Quezon Avenue Extension, Diliman, QC from April 19 to May 30. Aspiring TV-film talents and advertising models who wish to improve their acting skills are enjoined to attend the workshop. Registration/orientation sessions will be held on April 4 and 18, 1-6 p.m. and April 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Tanghalang Silayan, Ninoy Aquino Parks. For inquiries, call Siegfried Sepulveda at 373-7583 or Rosahlee Bautista at 806-3810.

The Hairdressers and Cosmetologist Association of the Philippines will hold its **23rd Hairstyling and Make-up competition** open to all hairstylists and make-up artists nationwide. To be held soon at Philtrade, the whole-day event will have three competition categories: Ladies' Creative Haircut, Men's Creative Haircut and "Flores de Mayo" hairstyling and make-up. For details, call Celso Buensuceso (525-4797), Tessie Atienza (731-4372), Tony Guy (524-7261), Gloria Katipuna (736-9853) and Vangie Espinelli (627-8728).

For this week's bands and schedules call:

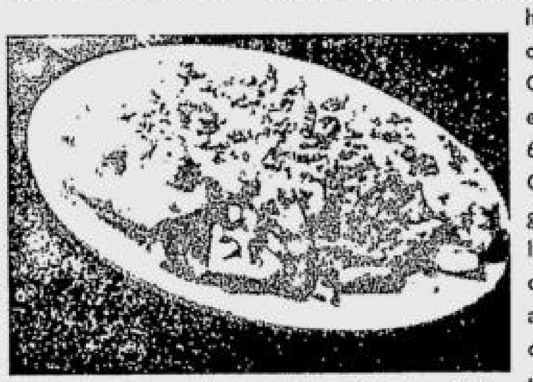
- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

X-manila

Imahen, Lenten paintings by upcoming Angono artists Arturo T. Sanchez Jr. and Kimberly E. Sison at Nineveh Artspace, 2452 1st Avenue, Villa Silangan Subdivision, Sta. Cruz, Laguna until April 18. A companion show of religious oil and watercolor paintings by various noted artists complements the event.

The **Gawagaway-yan Festival**, a unique celebration of the people of Cauayan City, Isabela is highlighted with the opening of the Festival Center that showcases the histories of the 65 barangays of Cauayan and other organizations. Activities lined up are athletic competitions, bazaars, a carnival night, concerts and film showings, Balik-Cauayan grand reunion, Wow Cauayan Dance Performance, bamboo crafts making contest, bamboo games, and a beauty pageant. The festival is ongoing until April 13.



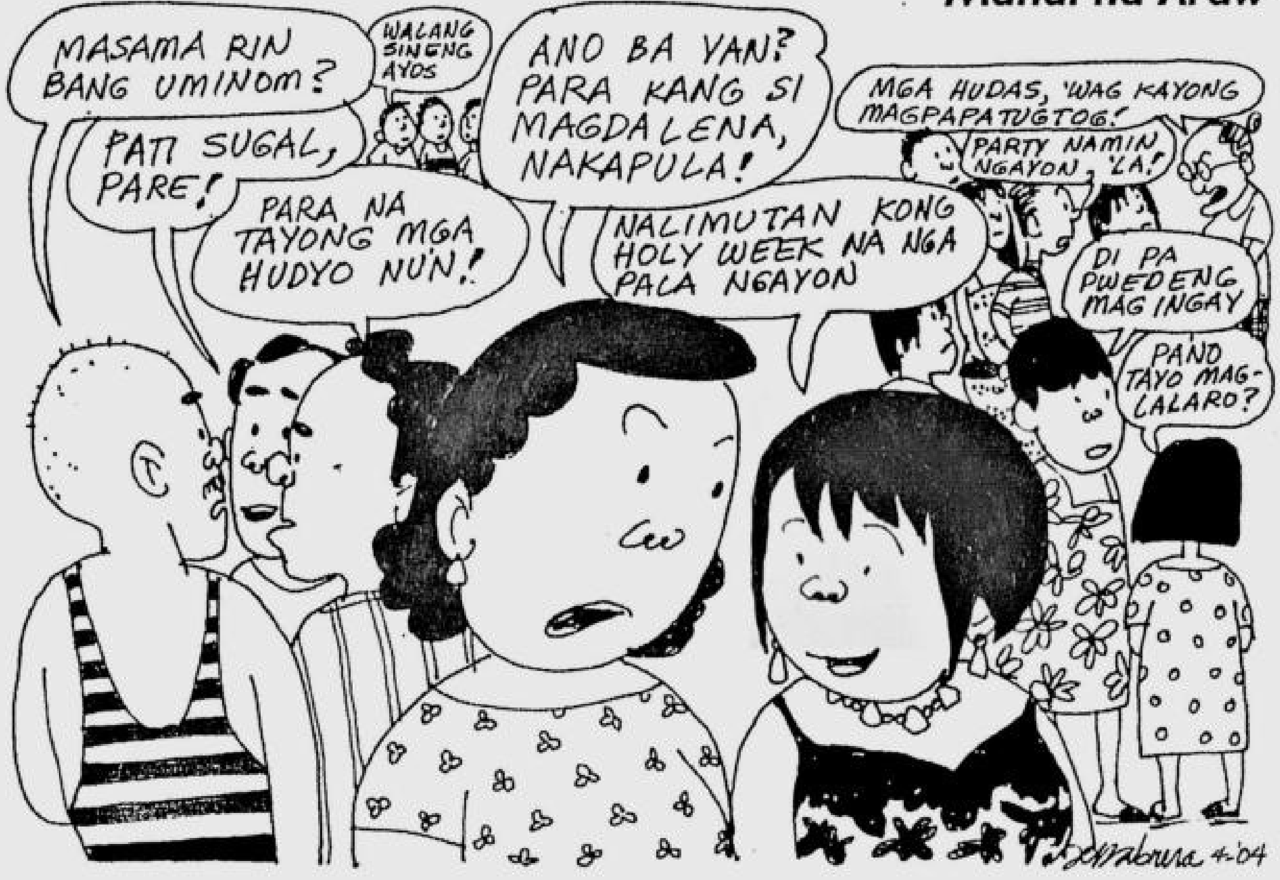
Nachos Trio, a popular dish at Kusineo

The **12th Summer Institute in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics** will be held on April 12-16 at the University of the Philippines Baguio consisting of teacher-training seminar-workshops in the disciplines of biology, chemistry, geology, mathematics and physics. Teachers and education managers from secondary and tertiary schools are enjoined to attend. For details, call Annette Tamino or Prof. Ofelia Giron at telefax (074) 444-3128 or at the College of Science, UP Baguio.

Pinoy Nga

By Jess Abrera

Mahal na Araw


MASAMA RIN BANG UMINOM?
WALANG SINSNG AYOS
PATI SUGAL, PARE!
PARA NA TAYONG MGA HUDYO NUN!
ANO BA YAN? PARA KANG SI MAGDALENA, NAKAPULA!
NALIMUTAN KONG HOLY WEEK NA NGA PALA NGAYON
MGA HUDAS, 'WAG KAYONG MAGPAPATUGTOG!
PARTY NAMIN NGAYON, 'LA!
DI PA PWEDENG MAG INGAY
PANO TAYO MAG-LALARO?
Abrera 4-'04

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

A Palm Sunday Reflection

Here's why Jesus was a dismal failure during Holy Week: He was neither a politician nor a movie star; he did not care about being popular

PALM Sunday leads me to reflect on the difference between a fan and a friend.

The dramatic entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday morning was like a Jesus Fans Club Day. The name "Jesus" was already a very popular name in both the rural and urban areas (Caesarea Philippi, Galilee, Judea, Jordan, Bethany). At a time when his people were agitating for a king to liberate them from Roman bondage, this man Jesus entered the urban center during the most crowded and potentially explosive national holiday, the Feast of the Passover.

Images of Old Testament liberator-kings like Jehu (2 Kgs. 9:13) and Simon Maccabaeus (1 Mc. 13:51) triumphantly entering the city amidst shouts of Hossana (which meant "Save us!") and the waving of palm branches, filled the minds of the people who now were also shouting Hossana to Jesus and waving palm branches. They were the "fans" of Jesus (today's Jesus Freaks) who wanted their "idol" to be a king according to their own fantasy. When Jesus demolished his fans' political dream of a violent takeover by riding not on a warrior-horse (symbol of war), but on a colt (symbol of peace), the Jesus Fans' Clubs disintegrated and turned around to become his crucifiers.

Public figures like politicians (especially during election time), religious leaders, community organizers, social activists and movie stars are popular only as long as they have fans and idol-worshippers around them. A movie love team once told me that they already had 27 Jimmy and Janna Fans Clubs around the country. They said, "It's fun having movie fans around us, but movie fans tend to dictate to us what to do and what not to do." Fans, they said, have the power to put you up on a pedestal, and also the power to shoot you down if you failed to fit the image they created for you."

That is why Jesus was a dismal failure during Holy Week. Because he was neither a politician nor a movie star; he did not care about being popular. Because he was a Prophet, all he cared about was to announce the truth about the Kingdom of God even if that kingdom was not popular both with the people and the Temple hierarchs. At that particular moment of truth, Jesus needed a friend, not his fans.

A Quick Reflection on Fasting

To practice Fasting and Abstinence as if we are punishing our body for leading us to sin is nonsense. It would be more sensible perhaps to practice fasting as a discipline for our body rather than against our body. Such perspective brings us closer to the more spiritual and wholistic desire to respect and reverence our body in order to prepare it to love and serve everybody, according to the saving purpose of God in the world.

In her book, "To Dance With God," Gertrud Mueller Nelson said, "Self-denial is work and is difficult and irksome, and only love can make it a joy. Fasting and other forms of self-denial seem easier to undertake if they are dedicated to something or someone beyond the ego—easier than if they were simply a contest against oneself rather than for the benefit of the true self. We can creatively balance out the omissions and commissions of sins against our bodies.

Between the old slavish following of a fasting ritual and the uneasy disregard of such official rules lies the choosing of a fast to honor one's body and to benefit our neighbor's total health in both body and soul.

As Gertrud M. Nelson suggests, "Lent may be a season to invest in a bicycle… or undertake a health and diet program. It may be appropriate to go off for that physical examination or that visit to the dentist that one keeps delaying. Imagine we would consider the effects of our workaholism on our body, notice when and why and in which parts of our bodies we feel tension and stress. How does our state of health affect the rest of the community? It may be as great a penance for some to relax in a hot bath or ask someone else to rub their tense shoulders as it is for a cholesterol victim in the house to turn down a bowl of Kare-kare and another bowl of ice cream. For some, it would be a good Lenten project to get a new haircut or to spend time or thought on the way they dress. The Easter outfit (like the Christmas outfit) is a celebration of our new attitude toward our bodily selves. How we respect our bodies is some measure of what we think of all creation which includes the persons with whom we share our life and health."

Those who fanatically observe Lent by refusing to take a bath on Good Friday or brush their teeth as an act of penance should think twice about loving their neighbor. While we bless them for saying that they love their neighbors, we pity their neighbors for finding it difficult (almost like Calvary) to love an unlovable foul-smelling saint. Advice to Lenten Penitents: "Go and wash your bodies first, my dears, for the sake of everybody!" (That's Holiness!) Q

New Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds TVC:

Behind the scenes with Robin Padilla

Robin during the shoot of the new Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds TVC: "Learning more about martial arts was a great experience."

Argentina introduces its latest corned beef variant, the Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds via a TV commercial (TVC) topbilled by no less than action superstar Robin Padilla. Megged by top Hong Kong director Alexi Tan, the TVC was shot in just one day, with impressive results as viewers will see Robin do some kung fu moves and more in the exciting commercial.

Set up for the shoot started promptly at 7 a.m., with the studio already buzzing with activity as the cameramen and crew prepared the set. Ever the professional, Robin was there on time and was met by Alexi, who immediately gave the star a run-through of the scenes and stunts to be done.

Extra-long action-packed scenes: Robin battling it out with the ninjas

Despite being very busy shooting six days a week for his popular TV series *Basta't Kasama Kita*, Robin was very excited to become part of the Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds commercial. The new TVC features impressive direction and cinematography similar to the look of popular films like *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. Viewers will see Robin doing stunts he's never done before, especially when he battles ninjas out to disrupt his meal of Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds.

With a taste that's really worth fighting for, the new Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds is made only from hi-grade imported beef carefully selected and hashed to achieve longer beef shreds. Sourced from the best cattle capitals of the world and generously blended with select spices and seasonings, it has the same delightfully premium taste of the original Argentina Corned Beef we've always loved.

To prove this point, Robin really took time out to study his moves for the TVC. "The fighting scenes are totally different from what people usually see me do in my films," shared Robin. "*Dito*, they will see me do some kung fu moves, which are really hard to learn."

For authenticity, Alexi brought his own crew of martial arts experts to Manila for the commercial. "They have worked with Jacky Chan in some of his movies," enthused Robin. "They really know what they're doing, and for me to be working with them and learning more about martial arts was a great experience."

With the stuntmen from Hong Kong, viewers are treated to a stunning display of flawless, technically superb martial arts action never before seen in a local TV commercial. Swift flying kicks, fast hand and body movements are executed with split-second precision.

Like in kung fu movies where the stars seem to fly in the air, Robin was able to perform superb, high-flying moves with the help of a harness. "*Medyo nakakanerbyos dahil ngayon pa lang ako gumamit ng* harness," said Robin. "But it turned out really good."

The new Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds commercial is actually a short film where Robin plays a role very similar to his character in his TV series. The TVC begins with Robin, who, after a long day's work, plans to enjoy a meal of his favorite Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds. As he gets down to prepare his meal, ninjas suddenly appear to attack him, and what follows is a brilliant display of fighting scenes and stunts typical of Hong Kong martial arts flicks.

Enjoying a meal of his favorite Argentina Corned Beef Extra Long Shreds

"I wanted to introduce a feature-film kind of feel to the production," said Alexi. "Our goal is to provide viewers with an entertaining piece of film while conveying the message of a new and exciting product." The Hong Kong-based director, who is known throughout Asia for his skill in art direction and photography, is also popular for his feature-film style commercials. One of these, a two-minute TVC for Acer computers, won the London International Advertising Award.

Robin with Alexi Tan (second from left) and stuntmen from Hongkong.

Because there is a certain look to be achieved, every scene of the commercial was meticulously shot. "I wanted Robin to act cool even when he realizes there are intruders," relayed Alexi. "So we had to get just the right blend of suave and macho in his acting." He was also all praises for his star. "Robin was such a pleasant artist to work with, he's a fast learner, and he's willing to experiment."

Robin stressed that while the stunts were hard to do, he nonetheless enjoyed the experience, "After all, it's not everyday that you're given a chance to work with such a talented and famed director," he said.